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Friday, 18 February, 2005

### 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

**To be disciplined, to be tranquil & peaceful, to ensure permanent democracy depend on people, political forces Combined efforts to be made farsightedly, broad-mindedly to address dissention, distrust stemming from personal attachment, sectarianism, foreign provocative acts**

YANGON, 17 Feb—*The following is a translation of the speech delivered by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein at the Plenary Session of the National Convention. Respected National Convention delegates,*

I would like to extend my warm wishes to you, delegates, to be able to carry out the responsibilities of the National Convention successfully with peace of mind and body.

As is known to you all, delegates, the 1988 unrest triggered instability in the Union in the absence

of the rule of law. Sovereignty was also on the verge of collapse. All the national people had to live in panic. In the end, the Tatmadaw had to assume the responsibility of the State as the situation was getting worse and as the Tatmadaw could no longer step aside from the deterioration situation. There are three possible dangers over which the Tatmadaw, since its assumption of the responsibility of the State, has been much worried, for they can harm national interest.

They are: the danger of Union disintegration, the danger of the explosion of conflicts at the collapse of national solidarity, and the danger of the loss of independence in other words, the sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Tatmadaw, since its assumption of the responsibility of the State, has vowed to ward off these dangers hand in hand with the people. Subsequently, the Tatmadaw has made public Our Three Main National Causes to deter the rise of these dangers by regarding them as the threats to nationalism.

At the same time, the Tatmadaw made concerted

efforts to create a peaceful and prosperous life for the national people after laying down the four political objectives, the four economic objectives, and the four social objectives.

Politics and economy correlate. The rise of better political conditions brings with it better economic conditions. Strenuous efforts were made to build national consolidation which is central to the restoration of peace, stability and the rule of law as well as to the creation of national political forces.

There broke out a series of armed conflicts among national races for over 40 years, resulting in hardened dissension among them. After assuming the responsibility of the State, the Tatmadaw took great pains willingly to cultivate a sense of scruple like mutual understanding, tolerance and sincerity among the national brethren.

These well-intentioned endeavours produced belief and confidence, whereupon 17 armed groups of *(See page 8)*

**The Tatmadaw made concerted efforts to create a peaceful and prosperous life for the national people after laying down the four political objectives, the four economic objectives, and the four social objectives.**



*The Plenary Meeting of the National Convention in progress at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnnapin Camp in Hmawby Township.—MNA*

**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**

# PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 February, 2005

## Towards a discipline-flourishing democracy

The Union of Myanmar is home to more than 100 national peoples and they have been living together in unity and amity for aeons. As it is a land of various national races, the State Peace and Development Council is striving for the Union of Myanmar to be able to stand proudly among other nations of the world by adopting non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as a national policy.

In striving for the development of the nation, the State Peace and Development Council has given top priority to the agricultural and industrial sectors and has been working in harmonious cooperation with private entrepreneurs.

In building the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one, the State Peace and Development Council has relied on the united strength of its own national forces and systematically created conditions in which not only government employees but also social organizations can participate in all national endeavours.

If we look at the current international situation, it can be easily seen that now is the time when developing countries like Myanmar have to make utmost efforts to avoid the loss of their national interests resulting from wealth and technical divide among the nations of the world.

Moreover, some developed nations has imposed sanctions and put a lot of pressure on our nation on political pretext through international bodies. With the support of these nations, destructive elements within and without are also hindering our national development endeavours by foul means. At such a time like this, we must make united efforts to be able to overcome undesirable conditions and stand on our own feet.

At present, the State Peace and Development Council is implementing the seven-point policy programme for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic state.

The National Convention, the very first and the most important step of the programme, is in now progress and basic principles to be based on in drafting an enduring constitution that can guarantee long-term interests of the entire national people are being discussed.

We would like to call on the entire national people to take an active and enthusiastic part in the national endeavour to build a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democracy.



Rural housing project is being implemented in 96 villages in the municipal area of Thahmatpin Township. The photo shows the completion of farmer U Aung Than's house in Minywa village.—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

## Cooperatives Minister views paddy husk-fired power generators

YANGON, 17 Feb — Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min inspected manufacturing of paddy husk-fired power generators of Myanmar Inventors Co-operative Ltd in Mayangon Township yesterday afternoon.

Chairman of the Myanmar Inventors Co-operative Ltd U Soe Tint Aung explained conversion of a 1,200/1,400 BHP diesel engine into the paddy husk-fired power generator. The minister viewed products and functions.



Minister Col Zaw Min inspects assembling of paddy husk-fired power generators. MNA

The minister gave instructions on power supply tasks to be carried out with the use of the paddy husk-fired power generators for ensuring uplift of socio-economic life of the rural people. — MNA

## 6th Conference of Myanmar Anaesthetic Surgeons Association opens

YANGON, 17 Feb — The 6th Conference of Myanmar Anaesthetic Surgeons Association was opened at the meeting hall of Myanmar Medical Association, here, this morning.

Director-General Dr Tin Maung Win of Health Department, Vice-Chairman of MMA Prof Dr U Thein Aung, Chairman of MASA Prof Dr Tin Myint and Reception Sub-committee Chairperson Dr Daw Myint Myint Aye gave speeches.

In the morning session, Prof Dr Tin Myint presided over the meeting. Next, five resource persons discussed their papers.

In the afternoon session, Lt-Col Hla Myint and Prof Dr U Than Tin Aung presided over the conference. Four resource persons read out their papers.

Later, all the participants paid respects to the aged anaesthetic surgeons and presented gifts to them.— MNA

## Booths at Defence Services Museum decorated

YANGON, 17 Feb — Booths at the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road are being decorated for putting them on display at the 60th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

This morning, officials supervised decoration tasks at the booths of Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Rail

Transportation, the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Commerce and other ministries, Eastern Command, North-West Com-

mand, Yangon Command and other military commands, directorates of the Ministry of Defence and 12 State Objectives.

MNA

## Cash donated to tsunami-hit victims

YANGON, 17 Feb — The International Language & Business Centre (ILBC) made cash donations to tsunami-hit victims through Myanmar Red Cross Society, at a ceremony held at ILBC training school on Thumngalar Road in Thingangyun Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were MRCS Secretary Dr Tun Sein, CEC members and officials, ILBC Managing Director U Tin Maung Win and teachers, students and guests.

ILBC Managing Director U Tin Maung Win explained the pur-



ILBC Managing Director U Tin Maung Win presents K 2.25 million for tsunami victims to Secretary of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Tun Sein.—MNA

pose of the donations.

Next, U Tin Maung Win handed over K 2.25 million donated by staff and teachers of depart-

ments and Pre-Schools under the ILBC and students to Secretary Dr Tun Sein of MRCS.

After giving certifi-

cates of honour to the wellwishers, Dr Tun Sein thanked the wellwishers for their donations. — MNA



# Singapore, Indonesia urged to work for ASEAN integration

**SINGAPORE, 16 Feb** — Singapore's President S R Nathan on Tuesday night called on Singapore and Indonesia to strengthen cooperation for closer political and economic integration of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"Indonesia and Singapore, as founding members of ASEAN, must work together to strengthen ASEAN's political and economic integration and restore its political and strategic relevance," Nathan said at the state dinner held in honour of his visiting Indonesian counterpart Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

This is critical at a time when major economic changes are reshaping the strategic landscape in Asia, he said, adding that both countries share a common vision of a united and peaceful ASEAN playing a leading role in regional affairs.

He called for new ways to expand areas of cooperation and to inject new vigour into ASEAN.

Describing the relations between the two countries as "excellent," the President said that the two economies are closely interdependent with each being the other's major trading partner.

Singapore was the top investor of Indonesia in 2002 and Singapore and its companies invested in 154 projects in that country in 2003.

Nathan pledged that the island state will continue to do what it can to support Indonesia's efforts to help the people in Aceh

rebuild their lives.

Susilo is now in Singapore for a two-day state visit, and Singapore is the second leg of his introductory visits to ASEAN members since his inauguration as Indonesian President in October last year.

The Indonesian President on Tuesday met several Singapore leaders such as President Nathan, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A shopper looks through a rack of traditional Chinese long dresses at a store in Hong Kong recently. — INTERNET

## Japan to tighten entry of foreign entertainers

**TOKYO, 16 Feb** — Japan will introduce a stricter immigration control for foreign entertainers on 15 March as part of its efforts to fight human trafficking, the Justice Ministry said on Tuesday.

The ministry's Immigration Bureau will abolish a provision that foreign entertainers officially certified as dancers or singers in their home countries can automatically receive entertainer visas for Japan, the ministry said.

There is a widespread view that these visas are often used to facilitate human trafficking. The ministry currently gives a six-month permit to certified foreign entertainers.

A total of about 130,000 foreigners entered Japan with an entertainment visa in 2003, and about 80,000 of them were Philippine nationals, the ministry said.

The Philippines had been asking Japan to postpone the introduction of stricter controls. Japan had put off implementation of the controls, initially set for January, to allow ample time to publicize the restrictions throughout domestic entertainment industry.

Japanese Government decided on an action plan last December to combat the human trafficking of foreign women into Japan after a US State Department report in June downgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts to fight human trafficking. — *MNA/Xinhua*



The first airplane arrives at Japan's newly-opened Central Japan International Airport in Tokoname, near Nagoya in central Japan on 17 Feb, 2005.

INTERNET

## HK Chief calls for promoting development and harmony

**HONG KONG, 16 Feb** — Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa said here Tuesday that promoting development and harmony is a goal shared by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government and the Hong Kong community, and by working together with one heart, Hong Kong will definitely achieve this goal.

In his speech delivered at the spring reception held at Government House, Tung added that in the next two and a half years, promoting development will continue to be the government's focus.

Harmony and stability are the foundations for further development. Undoubtedly, this focus will be well supported by the community, he added.

He said that Hong Kong's Spring Festival is full of life this year. The joy and vibrancy is felt everywhere and it demonstrates that "we are on track to full recovery and our economy is the best it has been in recent years".

This has been the aspiration of the entire Hong Kong community for years, and the achieve-

ment of years of collective efforts by the community in collaboration with the government and

under the care and support of the Chinese central government, said Tung. Tung pledged to

work hard to let more people enjoy the fruits of the economic revival.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## N China municipality sees growing foreign investment

**TIANJIN, 16 Feb** — The policies made by the Tianjin municipal government to absorb foreign investment in the region attracted an increasing number of foreign-funded companies in the north China municipality in 2004.

According to the statistics of Tianjin commercial commission, the municipality attracted 5.59 billion US dollar foreign investment in 2004, a year-on-year growth of 59 per cent.

The municipal government approved 1,102 foreign-funded companies in 2004, the most in

the past seven years, according to the statistics.

Manufacturing sector, which attracted 3.4 billion US dollars, was the main destination of foreign investment. The manufacturing of electronic equipment brought 1.4 billion US dollars to the municipality while the city's auto industry at-

tracted 610 million US dollars.

At the same time, the tertiary industry attracted contractual foreign investment of 1.9 billion dollars to the municipality, in which the real estate business absorbed 500 million US dollar, up 45.8 per cent.

*MNA/Xinhua*

## Italian journalist begs for life

**BAGHDAD, 17 Feb** — A female Italian journalist held hostage by militants in Iraq has made a heart-rending plea for her life in a videotape, as Iraqi politicians jockeyed for position in the new government.

Violence went on unabated north of Baghdad, clashes and attacks killing scores of civilians, security forces and rebels.

Two Lebanese businessmen kidnapped in Baghdad in late December were also set free Wednesday after 49 days in captivity, government sources in Beirut said.

They named the freed pair as Hassan Haydar and Ghazi Haydar, but gave no details of their release.

Giuliana Sgrena, a 56-year-old Italian reporter kidnapped two weeks ago, appeared in a video broadcast on Italian television and called on her government to withdraw its troops from Iraq.

"Withdraw from Iraq, this people must not suffer any longer... No one must come to Iraq anymore ... do something for me, put pressure on the government so they withdraw their troops," she said. Looking tired and drawn, Sgrena made her plea with an inscription in red Arabic letters stating "Mujahedeen without borders", a previously unheard of group. — *Internet*

## 1468 US soldiers killed since beginning of Iraq war

**BAGHDAD, 16 Feb** — As of Wednesday, 16 Feb, 2005, at least 1,468 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count.

At least 1,113 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is nine higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EST Wednesday. — *Internet*



A Singaporean woman uses her mobile phone in the city-state's banking district. Singapore's second biggest telecoms player, MobileOne Asia, said it will launch its third generation mobile phone service this week.—INTERNET

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## Nepali King appoints two vice-chairmen of Cabinet

KATHMANDU, 16 Feb — Nepali King Gyanendra on Monday appointed two former prime ministers as vice-chairmen of the Council of Ministers, or Cabinet, which was formed under his chairmanship on 2 February.

Former Prime Minister Tulsi Giri was designated as vice-chairman and assigned the portfolios of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs;

Water Resource, Land and Transport Management; Forest and Soil Conservation; and Science and Technology.

Another former Prime Minister Kirtinidhi Bista was named as vice-chairman with the portfolios of Industry, Commerce and Supplies; Agriculture and Co-operatives; Population and Environment; Physical Planning and Works and

Health. The two had served as prime ministers during the Panchayat era of late King Mahendra. Both are considered to be loyal to the royal palace.

King Gyanendra formed a 10-member Cabinet under his chairmanship after dismissing the coalition government led by Sher Bahadur Deuba on 1 February.

MNA/Xinhua

## China saw record high venture capital investment in 2004

BEIJING, 16 Feb — China saw a record high venture capital investment of 1.27 billion US dollars in 2004, according to statistics made by a non-governmental venture capital research institute.

The investment, from both Chinese and overseas professional venture capital investment enterprises, is 28-per-cent higher than in 2003.

Venture capital was invested in 253 new businesses in 2004, 43 per cent more than in 2003.

Among the industries drawing venture capital in 2004, the IC (integrated circuit) industry absorbed 424 million US dollars, ranking the first.

Traditional industry is another hot spot for venture capital investment as 178 million US dollars have been invested in 30 businesses there. Among all the

traditional industries, manufacture drew the most attention in 2004.

China also saw improvement in the recouping of venture capital investment after profits, as 60 investment enterprises recouped 802 million US dollars in 2004.

Stock ownership transfer is the major means of recouping. In 2004, some investment enterprises, such as Shanda Networking Co, recouped after making profits from their invested enterprises' being listed overseas.

MNA/Xinhua

## Beijing takes snow weather emergency measures to ensure traffic

BEIJING, 16 Feb — Beijing launched emergency traffic measures to deal with the heavy snow that began falling Tuesday morning and blanketed the city, according to an official with the Beijing traffic management bureau.

The snow, the first in the Year of Rooster according to Chinese lunar calendar, expanded from western to eastern part of Beijing from the early morning. Tianjin section of the Beijing-Taijin-Tanggu expressway and Beijing-Shijiazhuang expressway were closed due to the heavy snow. Tuesday is the last day of the Spring Festival holiday (from 9 February to 15 February). People who spent the holiday outside Beijing have been flocking back. Local traffic departments used 550 tons of snow-melting agents on the road and sent out 269 vehicles to clear the snow. Backup systems were also started for bus and rail traffic. According to Beijing Meteorological Station, the snow would stop Tuesday evening, and the temperature is forecast to drop steadily to reach -2 to -9 degrees Celsius this week.—MNA/Xinhua

## More relief goods rush to Pakistan's flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD, 16 Feb — Three aircraft including two helicopters, carrying 2,000 kilos of relief goods on Monday were sent to the rain and flood-stricken areas in southwestern Pakistan, local media reported.

Pakistan's Frontier Corps (FC) had arranged two helicopters, each carrying 500 kilos of relief items, to fly to Khuzdar and Turbat, the two most flood-affected southern cities, the official Associated Press of Pakistan on Monday quoted a spokesman of FC as saying in Quetta, the capital city of Baluchistan.

Another aircraft is also on the way to Turbat with the relief goods, said the spokesman.

He said the FC distributed 350 bags of flour, blankets, medicine and food items among those stranded in the flood-hit areas. Medical teams comprising doctors from the FC and civilian units were also sent to attend any sick in these areas.—MNA/Xinhua

## Nepali tourist arrivals slide in January

KATHMANDU, 16 Feb — The total number of tourists visiting Nepal last month decreased by 15.68 per cent over the same period of last year, the Nepal Tourism Board said Tuesday.

Altogether 19,032 visitors from different parts of the world came to Nepal by air in January, down from the number of 22,552 tourists in the same month of 2004, according to a Press release issued by the semi-government bureau.

The number of Indian tourists arriving in Nepal went down by 11.58 per cent to 5,846 visitors from 6,612, while tourists from

other countries also recorded an overall decrease of 17.27 per cent to 15,940 visitors from 17,271. Tourist arrivals from the Nepali tourist industry's traditional markets, namely the United States, Britain and Japan, recorded decreases of 8.99 per cent, 19.61 per cent and 28.96 per cent respectively. The number of visitors from China also declined by 61.79 per cent

to 421 visitors in January.

Tourism is one of the major foreign currency earners for Nepal, which boasts of unique landscapes and cultures, and earns about 170 million US dollars for the Himalayan kingdom every year. In recent years, however, the country's tourist industry suffered a downturn due to the anti-government insurgency.

MNA/Xinhua

## US authority in Iraq had chaotic, "Wild West" approach

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — The US occupation authority in Iraq had a chaotic, "Wild West" approach to contracting there which opened the system to abuse and waste, a former employee from the authority said on Monday.

Ex-Coalition Provisional Authority official Franklin Willis cited examples of this "chaos" at a hearing of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee and said he believed most abuse and waste could have been avoided.

Willis showed a picture of himself and other US officials holding up plastic-wrapped 'bricks' of 100 bills worth 2 million US dollars to pay security contractor Custer Battles, which the Defence Department has since suspended due to billing issues.

"The Custer Battles case, which while anecdotal, reflects a general pattern of waste and inefficiencies which could

have been avoided," said Willis of contracting abuses in Iraq.

"In sum, inexperienced officials, fear of decision-making, lack of communications, minimal security, no banks and lots of money to spread around. This chaos I have referred to as a 'Wild West'," Willis, who was a senior aviation official for the CPA, told the hearing.

Democrats have called for a full congressional hearing on what they say is a pattern of contracting abuses in Iraq, from overcharging by lead contractor Halliburton to poor planning and mismanagement.

MNA/Reuters

## Car bomb hits US military convoy in Iraq

MOSUL, 16 Feb — A car bomb exploded alongside a US military convoy in northern Iraq on Wednesday, witnesses said. Several people were injured in the blast near Mosul's Yarmouk Square, witnesses said. At least one US military vehicle was damaged in the blast.

Iraqi and American officials could not immediately be reached for comment.—Internet



Former South African cricketer Jonty Rhodes poses during a news conference in Bombay on 15 February, 2005. Rhodes was named the Brand Ambassador of the Conservation Corporation Africa and will promote wildlife safari tourism in Africa.—INTERNET



## Susilo tempts neighbours with five oil and gas projects

**JAKARTA, 17 Feb** — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has put five oil and gas projects on offer during his three-day visit to neighbouring countries Malaysia and Singapore.

"These five projects are our main priorities. Therefore, the President is making this offer during his official visit," Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro was quoted Wednesday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

He added that the offer was made in a bid to attract investors so as to speed up the realization of infrastructure projects.

Among the five projects is the completion of the gas pipeline connecting Grissik in South Sumatra to Semarang in Central Java.

The government is also seeking investors to build another parallel gas pipeline from Semarang to Cilegon and another line connecting Tuban, East Java, and Surabaya. Aside from the gas pipeline projects, the government is seeking investors for the building of a

fuel transit terminal in Tuban and the construction of a coal-fired power plant in Cilegon with a capacity of between 400 megawatts and 600 megawatts.

Purnomo refused to disclose the value of the five projects, saying it would depend on the results of tenders that would be held "as soon as possible".

The Oil and Gas Downstream Regulatory Agency (BPH Migas) would be responsible for holding the tenders for all three gas pipeline projects.

Purnomo said that Malaysian oil and gas company Petronas had showed an interest in participating in the Cilegon power plant project.

He also said that Susilo had decided to use his three-day overseas trip as a road show to attract investment for Indonesian infrastructure projects.

MNA/Xinhua

## Vietnam to facilitate local companies to invest abroad

**HANOI, 17 Feb** — Vietnam will simplify administrative procedures regarding overseas investment and allow more companies to do business in foreign countries, the Ministry of Planning and Investment said on Wednesday.

The ministry has proposed the government allow it to license overseas investment projects with capital of up to five million US dollars for private firms or under three million dollars for state-owned enterprises, instead of one million US dollars as it does currently.

The government is also expected to allow joint ventures between Vietnamese and foreign-invested companies to do business in foreign countries, providing that the capital of their overseas investment projects is below five million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

## Bangladesh-US TIFA draft finalized

**DHAKA, 17 Feb** — Dhaka and Washington through a two-day negotiation ending Tuesday finalized the draft of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), paving the way further for creating a platform to talk bilateral trade issues.

According to the *Daily Star* on Wednesday, the finalized draft emerged from the four-hour talks in the Commerce Ministry here between the two sides, and the draft now requires approval of the two governments before formal signing of the agreement aimed at promoting bilateral trade and investment.

Representing the US Government, the senior US trade policy adviser for Asia and the Pacific Betsee E Steelman, was quoted as saying the two sides have no dispute now.

Stelman, who is on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, was unable to say when the agreement would be signed, adding they are still in the negotiation process.

Joint Secretary of Bangladeshi Commerce Ministry, who led the six-member Bangladesh side, said the negotiation was fruitful, and once signed the agreement will create a forum for Bangladesh to discuss trade issues with the US.

Signing of the TIFA will be a preliminary stage for further preferential trade deals, like a free trade agreement, with Washington, he added.

Both sides, however, refused to tell the details of the finalized draft. The TIFA is a consultative mechanism to discuss issues affecting US trade and investment with another country. US has TIFAs with more than a dozen countries including Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan.— MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese shopper chooses cooking oil at a supermarket in Shanghai on 16 Feb, 2005. —INTERNET

## Large quantity of fake clothing, labels seized in Australia

**CANBERRA, 17 Feb** — Hundreds of clothing and labels of fake brands have been seized in Australia's state of Tasmania, representing the largest seizure of fake goods coming into the state in five years.

More than 600 items of clothing and a further 100 labels were found in a 40-foot sea container, which is from Vietnam, in Burnie, northern Tasmania. Customs Regional Director in Tasmania Steve Wood said on Wednesday that the fake

clothing include US NBA polo shirts and Pokemon children's clothing. "This seizure also represents the largest seizure of fake goods coming into Tasmania since the detection of a container of fake shoes over five years ago," Wood

said in a statement.

The items were detained under provisions of the Trade Marks Act 1995.

Penalties for such offenses can be up to about 43,200 US dollars and/or two years' imprisonment.

MNA/Xinhua

## HK population hit 6.89 million by end of 2004

**HONG KONG, 17 Feb** — Hong Kong's population stood at over 6.89 million at the end of 2004, according to provisional figures released Tuesday by the Census & Statistics Department.

The figure was up 50,100 over the previous year, representing a growth rate of 0.7 per cent. The number of births was 47,900 while deaths totalled 36,600, giving a natural increase of 11,300.

Both births and inflow of One-way Permit holders were important constituents of the overall population increase. The ratio of the number of births to the overall population increase was 96 per cent. The population is measured on the definition of resident population, which comprises usual residents and mobile residents.—MNA/Xinhua

## Report says US contractors had arbitrarily killed Iraqi civilians

**WASHINGTON, 16 Feb** — Four security guards have claimed that their former employer, hired by the US Government, has arbitrarily killed Iraqi civilians, a local news report said Tuesday.

"These aren't guerillas that we're brutalizing," retired Army Ranger captain Bill Craun told NBC News.

"It was local civilians on their way to work. It's wrong," Craun and three others said their former employer, Custer Battles, allowed heavily armed guards to roam Iraq brutalizing civilians, while they were supposed to be guarding supply convoys from guerillas.

Custer Battles was one subject of a hearing Monday by Democratic lawmakers into allegations of corruption in Iraq. A lawyer representing former employees told the senators the firm had

received millions of dollars for work not done because of the owners' connections with the Republican Party.

The four former employees told NBC that their convoys fired on Iraqi pedestrians and crushed children with a truck.

The US Army is looking into the allegations, NBC said.

The men claimed that on November 8, a Kurd guard travelling with them fired into a passenger car to move traffic out of the way.

He "sighted down his AK-47 and started firing," former Army corporal Ernest Colling told NBC.— MNA/AFP



Heavy traffic moves on a street in the Indian capital of New Delhi on 16 Feb, 2005. After years of delay, the Kyoto Protocol to fight global warming takes effect on Wednesday, the first legally binding plan to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by developed countries. —INTERNET

# Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine)— largest, longest and finest of its kind in Union

U Zaw

The inauguration of the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) spanning Thanlwin River took place on 5-2-2005, and Head of State Senior General Than Shwe graced the occasion by his presence.

The Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine), linking Mawlamyine, the capital of Mon State, and Mottama side, is the longest and largest of its kind in the nation. It has a 28-foot-wide two-lane motorway with the length of two miles, a 14-foot-wide railroad with the length of four miles, and two six-foot-wide walkways on it.

Situated near Gaungsay Island, the breathtaking facility stretches from Mawlamyine to Mottama. Its type is simple but magnificent, enhancing the beauty of Mawlamyine.

It was built at the confluence of Thanlwin River, Gyaing River and Attayan River. The waterway is very swift, wide and deep with whirlpools. The site is windy but was the most appropriate one for the facility. The Head of State himself oversaw the carrying out of a feasibility study and chose the site for construction of the bridge. The Head of State occasionally inspects construction projects and makes suggestions and assesses the reports of the engineers concerned.

National engineers and experts have so far constructed nearly 200 large bridges and 200 dams, and they have gained a lot of experience from the

construction projects. So, they are now capable of building such a large bridge across the wide river. The bed of the river is of laterite type. So the emergence of such a fine bridge reflects Myanmar engineers' technological innovations.

Nation-building tasks are being carried out with added momentum, but the nation cannot make enough investment in the construction tasks, so it has to rely mainly on technology, services, perseverance and innovative power of national experts. The Ngamoeyek Dam could be built on self-reliance, and it enhanced the confidence of national experts. Later, the nation was capable of implementing the Thaphanseik Dam Project or Mu River Basin Project. After the completion of Hline River crossing Bayintnaung Bridge Project in Yangon and Ayeyawady River crossing Nadawe Bridge Project, the nation was confident of building larger bridges spanning Ayeyawady, Thanlwin, Chindwin and Sittoung rivers. Great success in construction projects has been achieved in a short time due to the assistance and encouragement of the government.

At the opening ceremony of the Mawlamyine Bridge, the Head of State delivered a speech, saying that it has been a long time that the government would like to build such a kind of bridge useful to the region and the country. However, the bridge construction project could not be implemented immediately because of some difficulties, especially

financial constraints and technological problems. The government was thus looking forward to mature time and circumstances. Now, the nation's economy had improved to a certain degree. As small, medium and large bridges could be built technologically, the government gained technical know-how and experiences. Therefore it was capable of building such kind of bridge, he added.

In 1988 when the Tatmadaw assumed State duties, the government had a financial problem, and it could not make huge investments to construct large bridges. For example, the government had to build Thanlyin Bridge in Yangon and Ngawun Bridge (Ngathaingchaung) in cooperation with foreign nations. Now, the nation has been well confident and capable of building bridges across any rivers in the nation.

So far, four bridges have been constructed across Thanlwin River — Thanlwin Bridge (Hpan), Tarsan Bridge, Tarkawet Bridge and Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine). And across the Ayeyawady River are Bala Min Htin Bridge (Myitkyina), Anawrahta Bridge (Chauk), Magway Bridge, Nawade Bridge (Pyay), Bo Myat Tun Bridge, Maubin Bridge and Dedaye Bridge, and across the Chindwin River, Sinbyushin Bridge and Monywa Bridge, and across the Sittoung Bridge, Shwekyin Bridge. The government has constructed 14 bridges spanning the four largest rivers in the nation.

Up to now, the government has built 194 river and creek crossing bridges the length and breadth of the country in 16 years, resulting in smooth transport to the people.

The bridges that the government built and the largest ones in each state and division are as follows: -

Sr	State/Division	quantity	longest bridge
1	Kachin State	12	Bala Min Htin (2688 feet)
2	Kayin State	6	Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge (2900 feet)
3	Chin State	2	Kattle Bridge (480 feet)
4	Sagaing Division	17	Sinbyushin Bridge (4957 feet)
5	Taninthayi Division	7	Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge (3612 feet)
6	Bago Division	16	Nawade Bridge (4183 feet)
7	Magway Division	15	Magway Bridge (8989 feet)
8	Mandalay Division	8	Dokhtawady Yeywa Bridge (717.6 feet)
9	Mon State	5	Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) (11575 feet)
10	Rakhine State	31	Kissapanady Bridge (2513 feet)
11	Yangon Division	24	Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge (5977 feet)
12	Shan State	11	Thanlwin Bridge (Tarsan) (900 feet)
13	Ayeyawady Division	40	Bo Myat Tun Bridge (8544 feet)
Total		194	

And the nation's longest bridges are as follows: -

- 1 Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) (11575 feet)
- 2 Magway Bridge (8989 feet)
- 3 Bo Myat Tun Bridge (8544 feet)
- 4 Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge (5977 feet)
- 5 Anawrahta Bridge (5191 feet)
- 6 Sinbyushin Bridge (4957 feet)
- 7 Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) (4700 feet)
- 8 Nawade Bridge (4183 feet)
- 9 Dedaye Bridge (4088.3 feet)
- 10 Aungzeya Bridge (3786 feet)
- 11 Maha Bandoola Bridge (3643 feet)
- 12 Kyweku-Kyaukphya Bridge (3612 feet)
- 13 Hline Bridge (Shwepyitha) (3416 feet)
- 14 Wakema Bridge (3020 feet)
- 15 Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge (2900 feet)

The World Federation of Engineering Organization and the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization recognized the nation's capability and ability to construct such fine bridges.

Therefore, the entire nation should take

pride in this success achieved due to the combined efforts of the State and national experts.

Thanks to the emergence of Thanlwin Bridge, Attayan Bridge and Gyaing (Zathabyin) Bridge, people can travel from Mawlamyine to Hpan in more than one hour, and to Taninthayi Division by train or car. On completion of the

station and a feasibility study for a suitable site for construction of a bus terminal in the town. Local people in Mon State are thus to make sustained efforts to boost production, take innovative measures and to extend cultivation of rubber and pepper for regional progress.

In his address at the opening ceremony,

the Head of State also gave guidance, saying that it was important to build strength of solidarity as well as community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. The nation can overcome all the difficulties it encounters through these two strengths, he added.

On the whole, the guidance served as a light that showed the way to further development of the nation, and the entire national people are therefore to march forward on this way for regional and national development, while upholding the guidance.

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**(Translation: MS)**  
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## National Convention reconvenes...

(from page 16)

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, the President's Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, del-

ippines and India, diplomats from Egypt, Japan and China, regional coordinators of UN agencies, the president of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and members, officials of the Ministry of Information, correspondents from The Yomiuri Shimbun, Fuji Television Network Inc, Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS), The Nishinippon Newspaper Co, The Sankei Shimbun, NHK, The Mainichi Newspaper, Nippon Television Network Corp (NTV), The Tokyo Shimbun, The Churuchi Shimbun, Asahi Shimbun, VOA, EPA, TV Asahi News, AFP, Ji Ji Press, Reuters, AP and Kyodo news agencies.

NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein

Pyidaungsu Hall and the recreation hall for National Convention delegates.

Prior to the plenary session of the National Convention, NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, and NCC Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members cordially greeted ambassadors and charges d' affaires of foreign embassies, foreign diplomats, and coordinators of UN agencies.

The NCCC chairman also had a cordial convention with local and foreign correspondents and replied to their queries.

Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presided over the National Convention Plenary



The Panel of Chairmen seen at the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention.— MNA

ing of the National Convention, which then went into a recess.

When the plenary meeting restarted, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of National race group presided over it together with NCC Work Committee member U Myo

man and members, the Management Committee Chairman and members and all the delegates.

### Esteemed delegates,

Of the sectors for sharing the legislative power, the executive power and the judicial power to be in-

- group — 1 paper
- (f) Intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group — 1 paper
- (g) State-service personnel delegate group — 1 paper
- (h) Other invited persons delegate group — 1



U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Delegates of National Races.— MNA



U Yaw Aye Hla of Delegates of Representatives-elect.— MNA



U Tun Yin Law of Delegates of Political Parties.— MNA



Member of the Alternate Chairmen U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin).— MNA

egates of 17 armed groups who exchanged arms for peace, and representatives of other organizations, Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun, ambassadors of embassies of Brunei, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Russia Federation, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, Japan and Singapore, charges d' affaires of embassies of Nepal, the Phil-

and commission members, NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, NCC Management Committee Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen and officials of the subcommittees, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, delegates of peasants, delegates of workers, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of State service personnel, and other invited delegates signed the attendance registers at

Meeting. Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan acted as MC.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan announced the start of the plenary session of the meeting as out of 1081 delegates, 1075 attended it, accounting for 99.44 per cent.

Next, the plenary meeting went into recess after the Secretary-1 had delivered an opening speech.

Afterwards, the meeting resumed and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explained procedures of the conven-

Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), member of delegate group of political parties U Tun Yin Law, U Yaw Aye Hla of delegate group of representatives-elect, U Mya Aye of delegate group of peasants, Dr Myo Thant Tin of workers delegate group, Dr U Thein Oo Pho Saw of delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia, Maj-Gen Aung Thein of delegate group of State service personnel and U Tun Aung Chein of other invited delegate group.

Director (Meeting) of the office of NCC Work Committee U Than Aung acted as MC and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-MC. U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) explained suggestions made by the delegates about detailed basic principles on power sharing of legislation that will be included in the State constitution.

Maung Hsu Shin delivered a speech. In his speech, he said that first, I would like to wish health and happiness for the National Convention Commission Chairman and members, the Work Committee Chair-

cluded in drafting a constitution, delegates have presented group-wise suggestions concerning the basic principles for the legislative sector at the National Convention held from 17

paper  
The papers were read out by the members of the delegate groups and other delegates at the plenary session.

Now, a collection of the



Director (Meeting) U Than Aung and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi act as emcees at the Plenary Meeting. MNA May to 9 July 2004.

The 18 papers presented by the delegates at the plenary session of the National Convention held from 24 June to 9 July are:

- (a) Political parties delegate group — 7 papers
- (b) Representatives-elect group — 5 papers
- (c) National races delegate group — 1 paper
- (d) Peasants delegate group — 1 paper
- (e) Workers delegate

excerpts from the suggestions compiled the panel of meeting chairmen will be presented.

### Esteemed delegates,

At the plenary meeting held on 18 May 2004, the Work Committee Chairman said, "In connection with the sharing of legislative power of the State, the National Convention has already laid down a fundamental principle, — the (See page 10)



NC delegates signing in the attendance book to Plenary Meeting of the National Convention.— MNA



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs in the attendant book at the National Convention. — MNA



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein replies to questions raised by journalists. — MNA

## To be disciplined, to be tranquil & peaceful, ...

(from page 1)

national races returned to the legal fold in succession. They are now lending themselves to the drive for regional peace.

By making the most of the fruitful results in the

1993 to 30 March 1996. 'Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State constitution,' which is the fourth point of the four political objectives, is the lofty political hope of the

Convention Objectives, non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty are the three points key to the flourishing of the genuine



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greets diplomats. MNA

political confidence, steps were taken systematically in all seriousness beginning June 1992 to hold the National Convention as part of the crucial efforts to formulate an enduring State constitution the country needs. As a result, fundamental principles and detailed basic principles could be laid down at the National Convention that was held from 9 January

Tatmadaw government for the country and the people. This being the case, 'flourishing of a genuine multi-party democracy system' was embedded in the National Convention Objectives as the fourth point. In our rounds of discussions, emphasis will be placed on the emergence of discipline-flourishing democracy.

Of the National

multi-party democracy. The development of the political, economic and social infrastructures in the country is based on these three points.

Only when the embankment of the lake is strong will lily flowers be in full bloom. Likewise, only when Our Three Main National Causes are in order will democratic system last. No lily flowers

blossom amid flames and hot ashes. In like manner, democracy will flourish only in the disciplined human society where peace and stability prevail with the rule of law.

Democracy cannot thrive in a country where insurgency erupts at the collapse of unity and stability. There were times in which democracy existed in name but was short-lived as a consequence of riots and anarchy. Even worse were some situation.

We all have seen the dismemberment of Unions, which were once strong. Lessons should be taken from such international events.

Democracy and the rule of law are inseparable. Discipline is a must for prolonged democracy. Therefore, we have pinned our hope on discipline-flourishing democracy.

To be disciplined, to be

tranquil and peaceful, and to ensure permanent democracy are what concerns the people and political forces.

It is necessary that stability peace and the rule of law should reign the country. Besides, the fulfilment of infrastructures needed for national interest is what matters most.

The people should have a sense of scruple to elect will-rounded delegates. With this end in view, the Tatmadaw government is taking pragmatic measures to create and develop human resources, concentrating on the basic and higher education.

Fourteen years into the exercise of the 1947 Constitution in the country, the Union was on the brink of disintegration. Later, that Constitution came to a complete end.

The people made it

clearly that they disapproved of the 1974 Constitution on account of one-party system and the negligence of private economic sector.

It will therefore be necessary to draw lessons from the previous constitutions, and care should be taken to avoid similar fates in the constitution now being formulated.

Now is the time to make combined efforts farsightedly and broad-mindedly to address the dissension and distrust stemming from the personal attachment, sectarianism, and foreign provocative acts.

It is natural that there exist saboteurs in the world. They are now hatching wicked schemes with fouled intention of making the country deviate from its current right track of nationalism.

(See page 9)

### Notes of Panel of Chairmen of National Convention 19 Feb

YANGON, 17 Feb — The notes from the reports of the National Convention delegates to lay down basic detailed principles concerning the delegation of legislative power to be included in the State Con-

stitution submitted at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township on 17 February by Alternate Chairmen U Tun Yin Law of Delegates of Political Parties, U Yaw Aye Hla of the Delegates

of Representatives-elect and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of the Delegates of National Races, on behalf of the Panel of Chairmen, will be inserted in the newspapers on 19-2-2005.

MNA



NC delegates attending the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention. — MNA



NC delegates attending the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention. — MNA





NC delegates attending the National Convention at Nyaunghnapin Camp.

MNA



Arrival of NC delegates to attend the National Convention at Nyaunghnapin Camp.— MNA

## To be disciplined ...

(from page 8 )

On the other hand, the Tatmadaw, throughout the course of history, has never lost sight of the interests of the national people. Moreover, it has pledged to go on making concerted efforts to turn into reality the ambitions, hopes, and wishes of the entire people. The Tatmadaw will also cooperate with the simple national people who entertain patriotism and Union Spirit until the seven-point Road Map has been successfully implemented.

The National Convention Convening Commission, the NCC Work Committee, and the NCC Management Committee in tandem with the members of the Panel of chairmen carried out the tasks in unison and harmony during the time when the National Convention went into recess.

The panel of chairmen took time to observe the pro-

posed papers submitted by the delegate groups at the National Convention that was held from 17 May to 9 July 2004. And they also compiled assessment papers. After collecting suitable proposals made by the delegate groups, the panel of chairmen submitted them to the National Convention Convening Work Committee, which then submitted them to the National Convention Convening Commission.

The findings of the panel of chairmen will be presented here on this occasion so that other delegate groups can make assessment of them. And then approval will be sought.

The Work Committee will present the principles concerning the sharing of legislative power at the Plenary Meeting.

The Work Committee will also clarify the matters related to the sharing of executive power and judicial power in different sectors like those concerning the Un-

ion, those concerning the Region or the State, and those concerning the Self-administered Area. The delegate groups are to hold discussions on the clarification and compile proposed papers. Later, the proposed papers related to detailed basic principles that shall be laid down for the executive and judicial sectors will be read out at the Plenary Meeting.

Now is the time when the winter is out and the summer is in. During this climatic change, you all, delegates, should take care of your health. I would like to urge you all to take preventive measures, receive treatment and do some physical exercises for health.

The Management Committee has been prepared to offer as much assistance as possible for your physical and mental health.

After all, I would like to urge you all, delegates, to be friendly, open and frank with one another as before.

MNA



NC delegates sign in the attendance book. — MNA



NC delegates attend the National Convention at Nyaunghnapin Camp.— MNA

## Delegates to make discussions...

(from page 16)

The book on the procedures includes the preamble and seven chapters

Included in Chapter I are six objectives of the National Convention:

- Non-disintegration of the Union
- Non-disintegration of national solidarity
- Perpetuation of sovereignty
- Flourishing of a genuine multi-party democracy system
- Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of

worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State

— For the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State.

The delegates will have to make discussions within the framework of the procedures to lay down basic principles to be included in drafting a durable constitution.

Chapter II states that representatives from eight categories of delegate groups are permitted to take part in the National Convention. There are seven duties and responsibilities and three rights and privileges for the delegates. As they have rights and privileges, they should be dutiful. Moreover, there are codes of conduct and rules

for the delegates. As these are prescribed for the success of the National Convention. I believe that the delegates will understand, accept and adhere to them.

The codes of conduct and rules are:

1. Delegates should not be loyal to any other state, except the Union of Myanmar,
2. They will have to obey and observe the directives of the panel of chairmen or the group meeting chairman.
3. They will have to live in compatible with the dignity of a National Convention delegate and so on.

The panel of chairmen is required to preside over

(See page 10)



Arrival of foreign journalists at the National Convention. — MNA



Diplomats and officials of UN agencies attending the National Convention.— MNA

## Delegates to make discussions...

(from page 9)

a meeting. Thus, the panel of chairmen comprising five representatives from the Work Committee, 10 delegates from political parties and representatives-elect, and five from the remaining six groups since resumption of the National Convention on 17 May 2004 are to carry out the duty. Selections have been made to fill vacancies occurred due to certain reasons. The existing panel of chairmen will preside over the present National Convention.

Chapter III states the checking of the attendance register during the meeting and announcement of the validity of the meeting. Any meeting of the National Convention can be announced valid if the number of delegates attending it reaches 50 per cent.

Chapter IV states the procedures to be observed in presenting discussion or suggestions. First, I will deal with the procedures for group discussions. They are:

Group discussions of the delegates should be submitted to panel of chairmen of the group meeting. The panel of chairmen will collect the suggestions of similar types and will present them to the plenary session of the Convention.

A delegate can present his individual discussion or suggestion to the plenary session through the panel of chairmen after present-

ing it for discussion in his group.

If any disagreement is found in the suggestions of political parties, delegate groups and independent representatives, the Work Committee will coordinate the matter and will take necessary measures.

Now, I will explain the procedures of the National Convention.

The papers compiled by delegate group for the plenary session must be stated clearly and precisely the facts they wish to discuss. The papers must be presented to the Work Committee together with the name or names of the presenters within the specific time through the panel of chairmen.

If there are any differences in the paper presented to the plenary session the Work Committee will take necessary measures to address the problem.

Now, I have explained the important part of the procedures. They are for the success of the National Convention and for the delegates to make discussions and suggestions in a cordial atmosphere within the framework. I believe that the delegates will understand this.

As in the past, each room is to accommodate four delegates at men and women's hostels for their convenience. All rooms have electricity and adequate amount of clean water supply.



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein answers the queries raised by journalists.— MNA

Food served for the delegates are being stored and cooked in accord with the health standard. All the persons who serve at the messing rooms have already undergone medical check ups. Food programme are being drawn with the approval of high level officials. Arrangements are being made to serve food for vegetarians and in accord with the religious practices of the delegates.

As now is the open season, delegates can take early-morning exercises on the streets of the Nyaungnabin Camp. They can also play badminton, table tennis and weightlifting at the gymnasium or practice golf. The hospital at the camp is kept open round the clock. It has sufficient number of doctors and other health staff. Arrangements have been made for the specialists to visit patients. If needed any patient ward at the hospital will be transferred to a military hospital for further treatment.

Television programme, karaoke entertainment and books and periodicals are available for the delegates. Programmes are being made to entertain the delegates with stage shows, anyient shows, variety dances, films and video plays.

The Industry-1 Ministry and GEC have opened shops at the camp. There are also a hair dressing saloon, a beauty parlour, a laundry service, an optical service and restaurants. Transport and communication programmes are being made for the convenience of delegates,

The Governments is in the process of materializing the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The National Convention is the first and most important step of the Road Map. Delegates of all walks of life in the entire nation are taking part in the Convention as a national task, with patriotism and Union Spirit.

It is a common knowledge that saboteurs from inside and outside the national, who are jealous of seeing the developing situation are making attempts to cause obstacles which will bar the nation from holding the Convention successfully.

The National Convention is of vital importance for the nation, and it will go down in the annals of history.

The delegates are the persons who are shaping the nation's future. So, the

Government will not let the Convention and anyone of the delegates be harmed by outside interferences. We will never tolerate any harm against the Convention and the delegates. As stated in the speech delivered by Chairman of NCCC the Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council that it is natural that there exist saboteurs in the world. Thus, the Government has tightened the security at the Convention.

We the officials concerned are ready to solve any problem, and attend to any requirement including personal matters of the delegates.

I wish you all to enjoy physical and mental health and to work with intellectual ability and utmost efforts to lay down basic principles to draft a durable constitution for the interest of the nation and the people. With this I conclude.

MNA

## National Convention ...

(from page 7)

legislative power of the State is shared among Union Hluttaw, Region Hluttaws and State Hluttaws; legislative power stipulated by the State Constitution shall be distributed to self-administered areas. The Work Committee has invited officials of the ministries and respective departments and experts in their respective professions and collected necessary facts and documents after making discussions with them. Concerning the tasks and responsibilities implemented by the ministries, the Work Committee has studied in detail weaknesses and advantages experienced by the central status and state and division levels. Regarding the sharing of legislative power, it has studied the Union Legislative list and State Legislative list in the 1947 Union of Myanmar Constitution. Moreover it has paid serious attention to studying the sharing of the legislative power stipulated in the constitutions of some of the former colonies that freed themselves from under the rule of the British, and some other nations around the world.

"The Work Committee will clarify the proposed legislative list to be entrusted to the Pyithu Hluttaw comprising Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Region or State Hluttaw in 11 sectors as follows:

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

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

(See page 11)

## Foreign diplomats visit Nyaungnabin Camp

YANGON, 17 Feb—Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, ambassadors of embassies of Brunei Darussalam, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Russia Federation, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic,

Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, Japan and Singapore, charges d' affaires of Nepal, the Philippines and India, diplomats from Egypt, Japan and China, and regional coordinators of UN agencies observed the National Convention today.

Next, the National Con-

vention Convening Commission held a tea party to the foreign guests.

The guests also observed the Nyaungnabin Camp and visited Win Thuzar Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1. After that, the diplomats observed hostels of the NC delegates, sports hall, golf club and hospital. — MNA



Diplomats visit Nyaungnabin Camp where the National Convention is being held.— MNA



## National Convention reconvenes...

(from page 10)

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

Of the seven political parties, the National Unity Party said that the NUP found out that all the matters included in the defence and security sector are comprehensive and appropriate.

The Union Pa-O National Organization said that the national defence covers the task of ensuring security for lives and property of the entire nation without fail. The nation will be able to ward off all alien intrusion, insults and threats only if its defence and security is strong. Thus, all necessary preparations must be made for defence and security. The seven points presented by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as a basic principle.

Mro or Khami National

Union legislative list as basic principles.

Union Kayin League said that as the defence and security sector is of vital importance for the nation, it is required for the nation to become modern and strong. The seven points explained by the Work Committee chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as the basic principles.

Kokang Democracy and Unity Party said that the State security is of vital importance for the nation. Public lives and property will be secure and at ease only if there is State security. The points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as basic principles.

Wa National Development Party said that a strong national defence cannot be built overnight. Preparations must be made for national defence. And if necessary laws must be enacted. Thus, it should be included in the Union legislative list concerning the matters defence of the Union of Myanmar and all her parts and preparations for defence to enact laws if necessary.

Defence and security industry should be set up as necessary for national preparedness in the defence and security. Thus, it should be included in the Union legislative list concerning

legislative list to enact laws for the sake of public safety.

At present, the nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation are being used for civilian as well as military purposes. But the correct way of controlling the original mineral that produces nuclear energy or fuel and causes radiation is required. But the task of controlling the material can be carried out only by the State. Thus, the matter concerning the mineral resources that produce nuclear energy or fuel and cause radiation should be included in the Union legislative list to enact laws.

The power of declaration of war and ceasefire is entrusted to the parliament, the highest legislative body of a nation. If a war broke out there will be a cease fire agreement reached between the countries concerned or through an intermediate country. As the matter concerns the whole nation it should be included in the Union legislative list to enact laws if necessary.

In most global nations, the rule of law, and prevalence of peace and stability and security in the entire nation are important in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Thus, the matter should be included in the Union legislative list to enact laws if necessary.

The seven points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list.



NC delegates sign in the attendance book at the National Convention.— MNA

that the points clarified by Work Committee Chairman U Aung Toe should be laid down as the detailed basic principles.

Representatives-elect U Tin Win of Kyaiklat Township constituency-2, U Thein Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township constituency-1, U Hla Soe of Minbu Township constituency-2, U Mya Hlaing of Twantay Township constituency-2, U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township constituency-2 said that the points explained by the Work Committee Chairman concerning the defence and security should be included in the Union legislative list. Biological and chemical weapons, nuclear energy or pesticides may cause accidents. As accidents may harm locals, the matter should be coordinated with the respective local authorities.

Representative-elect U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township constituency in northern Shan State said that it is much important for the nation to have a powerful defence force to stand tall among world countries. Almost every country in the world entrusts the legislative power concerning defence to the central level parliament that has the power to look after every affair of the state.

As the nation needs to safeguard itself from external and internal dangers, it also needs to ensure security for lives and property of the people.

The development drive can be launched only if there is peace, stability and security in the nation.

Thus, the points clarified by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list."

The national race delegate group said that the points clarified by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the

Union legislative list.

It also gave a separate suggestion, saying that it will take time to train the soldiers, human resources of the defence sector, to be healthy, gallant and patriotic and to possess Union Spirit. The nation should produce good sons and daughters whose spiritual and physical ability is sufficient for the nation to rely on and who can handle sophisticated weapons and who have high intellectual qualification. Before launching the Naungyoe battle, King Bayintnaung told his soldiers, "In a battle numbers do not matter. What matters is the efforts, brian and efficiency."

Perpetuation of sovereignty is the inborn duty of all the people of Myanmar. In this age that is seeing rapid advancement in science and technology, the national defence and security task will be effective only if the modern Tatmadaw and the people join forces.

Thus, Myanmar youths will have to prepare to produce healthy, fit, highly-qualified and courageous citizens.

Peasant delegate group said that almost all the nations of the world entrust the legislative power concerning the national defence to the central parliament. National security is as important as the national defence itself. The nation will have security only if there is peace and stability. Utmost efforts can be made for national development only if there is peace and stability. Thus, national defence and security should be included in the Union legislative list.

Worker delegate group said that when it comes to national defence and security, the nation will have to beware of terrorism of the extremists.

Terrorism is spreading all over the world. It is the inborn duty of all citizens to ward off all forces of

terrorism. Thus, the defence and security should be laid down as the basic principles of the Union legislative list.

The intellectuals and intelligentsia delegate group said that the legislative sector should focus on laying down long-term and short-term national defence plans and forming a strong, active and brilliant Tatmadaw.

The defence and security should be included in the Union legislative list to enact laws as necessary.

The group suggested the following points;

- To safeguard the territory of the Union of Myanmar and to guard against terrorism and coercion.
- To take into account the conventional arms, ammunition and explosives and strategic arms in enacting a law concerning the arms and ammunition and explosives including biological and chemical weapons.
- To consider compensation and insurance cover for accidents of the persons whose work is concerned with nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation and highly classified material, objects, areas, technologies, researches and information.

In advanced and developed nations laws regarding the information and communication technology are enacted. Thus the nation should take into account the ICT and post-ICT concerning the defence and security sector.

Those of the training programmes and research, health, agricultural and military professions may face health hazards. The persons whose work involves the use and study of minerals may be exposed to health hazards depending on time, type and strength of radiation and (See page 15)



Diplomats and officials of UN agencies attend to the National Convention.— MNA

Solidarity Organization said that the seven points should be included in the Union legislative list as a basic principle.

Lahu National Development Party said that as the defence and security sector, the foreign affairs sector and judiciary sector are required for a nation, the seven basic principles for the defence and security sector, the seven basic principles for the foreign affairs sector and the 11 basic principles for judiciary sector are found to be appropriate to be included in the

the matter defence and security industries to enact laws if necessary.

National defence and security have interrelations. The State will have to safeguard the nation against all alien intrusions and to ensure public security. To do so, the nation should have a law concerning ammunition and explosives including biological and chemical weapons. Thus, the matter concerning the ammunition and explosives including biological and chemical weapons should be included in the Union

Of the five papers presented by representatives-elect group, the papers presented by the delegates of the National Unity Party and the Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization are the same as the ones presented by the delegates of the respective parties in the political parties delegate group.

Representative-elect Dr Hmu Htan of Htantalan Township constituency in Chin State, and Representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency in Shan State said

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 147/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 147/N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving at Yangon Port on 19.2.05 and will be berthing on/about 20-2-05 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws 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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone No:293147, 296507, 295754

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV "MAWLAMYINE" VOY NO ML116/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MAWLAMYINE" Voy No ML 116/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon Port on 19.2.05 and will be berthing on/about 20-2-05 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws 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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone No:293147, 296507, 295754

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ ၁၁ ရက်

ချိတ်ပိတ်ရေးနှုန်းလွှာအသိပေးခြင်း

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီ၏ လုပ်ငန်းသုံးအတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါပစ္စည်းများကို ဌာနအရောက် ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ပေးချေဝယ်ယူရန် ချိတ်ပိတ်ရေးနှုန်းလွှာများ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ပါသည်-

- (က) CAT Excavator 320 L နှင့် 315 L စက်အရန်ပစ္စည်းများ 1 Lot
(ခ) အခွန်အခပေါင်းစည်းပြေတန်နှင့် Demand စာရွက်ပုံနှိပ်ပုံစံများ ၂၀၀၀၀၀ ရွက်
(ဂ) ကွန်ပျူတာပရင်တာသုံး Ribbon များ ၅၀ ခု
(ဃ) တန်ဖိုးချိန်စက်သုံး Load Cell များ ၂ ခု
(င) သတင်းစာရိုက်စက္ကူ (News Print) (၂၀" x ၃၀") ၁၀၀၀၀ ထုပ်

ချိတ်ပိတ်ရက်မှာ ၂၀-၂-၂၀၀၅ နေ့ (၁၆:၀၀)နာရီဖြင့်ပြီး ရေးနှုန်းတင်သွင်းလွှာပုံစံ တစ်စုံလျှင် ကျပ် ၁၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်တစ်ထောင်တိတိ) နှုန်းဖြင့် ဘတ်ဂျက်နှင့်ငွေစာရင်းဌာနမှ ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချ ရေးဌာနထုတ် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို ဖုန်းအမှတ် - ၂၅၂၃၃၀၊ ၂၅၂၁၂၂ (လိုင်စင်)၊ ၂၅၂၅ တို့သို့ ချိတ်ပိတ်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ
ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ချိတ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

ဗဟိုဒီဇိုင်းအမျိုးအစား မော်တော်ယာဉ် အမှတ် ၁၀၀/၁၀၆၄ အား ချိတ်ပိတ် တင်ဒါ ဝန်ခံဖြင့် ရောင်းချ မည် ဖြစ်၍ တင်ဒါစည်းကမ်း ချက်များ ကို တစ်စောင်လျှင် ကျပ် ၂၀၀/- နှုန်းဖြင့်အမှတ်- ၂၅၂၂ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဖေဖော်ဝါရီလ (၁၇) ရက်နေ့မှ စတင်ဝယ်ယူ နိုင်ပါသည်။

Global PC shipment growth to slowdown in 2005

LOS ANGELES, 16 Feb — Worldwide PC shipments will grow 9 per cent in 2005, down from the 11.6 per cent increase in 2004, high-tech market research firm Gartner projected Tuesday.

Gartner said PC shipments in 2005 are projected to total 199 million units in 2005, up from the 1,893 million units shipped in 2004.

The market researcher said it expects mobile PC shipments to drive market growth by increasing 17.4 per cent in 2005, while desk-based PC shipments to grow only 6.1 per cent.

"Overall shipment growth is expected to slow this year as both professional and home users wind down major replacement cycles," said George Shiffler, principal analyst for Gartner's Client Platforms research.

He said Gartner analysts believe professional replacement activity peaked in 2004 and will decelerate sharply over 2005. While home replacement activity will continue to provide some strength to the market in 2005, it too seems likely to slow by year-end.

MNA/Xinhua

S African countries want more action in NEPAD agrl programme

MAPUTO, 16 Feb — The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has called for more action instead of discussion on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) agriculture programme in the region.

This is a common view of many participants at a four-day meeting launching the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of NEPAD in the region, which opened in Maputo on Tuesday.

There was a note of impatience in both the

speeches of SADC Executive Secretary Prega Ramsamy, and Mozambican Agriculture Minister Tomas Mandlate. Both men wanted to see movement now, rather than interminable rounds of further discussion on the matter. "We can't go on talking about initiatives and intentions. We must implement," Ramsamy said. "Otherwise we won't reach the Millennium Development Goals, and people will continue going hungry."

"Our children will not be very proud of us, if we

don't get moving," he said.

As far as SADC is concerned, "agriculture can be a flagship to address the problems of poverty," Ramsamy said, agriculture played a key role in the growth of the gross domestic product of SADC member states, in exports, in employment, and hence in poverty reduction. "We agreed to host this event, in the belief that now is the time for a qualitative advance in NEPAD development programmes," said Mandlate.

MNA/Reuters

US woman accused of cutting baby's arms off ruled as insane

McKINNEY (Texas), 16 Feb — A mother who cut off her baby's arms was ruled mentally incompetent to stand trial on murder charges.

The jury's verdict came after just minutes of deliberations Monday in Dena Schlosser's brief competency trial. Both the prosecution and the defence had requested that jurors find her incompetent so she could

be treated at a mental hospital before standing trial.

Attorneys said they expect the judge to commit Schlosser to a state hospital on Tuesday. She could still stand trial if she is someday found competent.

Schlosser, 36, was charged with murder on 22 November after she told an emergency operator she had severed her 10-month-old daughter's

arms. Police found Schlosser in the living room, covered in blood, still holding a knife and listening to a church hymn. She was later diagnosed with manic depression.

In court, she sat slumped in her chair and stared straight ahead when the verdict was read, just as she did during most of the trial. Her wrists and ankles were shackled with black belts. — MNA/AP

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Min Lin Co (LL.B) Advocates
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: minlinco@netmail.net.mm
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box 688
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P.O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 18 February 2005

အမည်ပြည့်စုံစွာခေါ်ဝေါ်ရန်
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Cost of living skyrockets in Zambia

LUSAKA, 16 Feb — The cost of living in Zambia has risen by a marked level, with the monthly Basic Needs Basket in the capital Lusaka at the end of January much higher than a month earlier, Zambia News Agency reported Monday.

According to a report released by the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, the basic needs cost shot to a total of 1,340,840 Zambian kwacha (279 US dollars) by the end of January 2005, from 1,147,840 kwacha (239 US dollars) at the end of December 2004.

The Basic Needs Basket, which is a measure of the cost of essential food and non-food items for a family of six living in one of six urban areas of Zambia, not only climbed in Lusaka but in regions like the Copperbelt, Central and Southern Provinces of the country as well.

In a statement accompanying its latest report, the Jesuit Centre called on the Zambian Government to adjust the pay as you earn (personal income tax) exemption threshold upwards to bring relief to poor families.

MNA/Xinhua

Kenya discovers six baby chimps in crate at airport

NAIROBI, 16 Feb — Kenya made its biggest seizure of primates in the battle to stop trade in endangered wildlife with the discovery of six baby chimpanzees crammed into a crate at an airport, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) said on Tuesday.

The chimps, with a black market value of 20,000 US dollars each, and four Guenons, a type of long-tailed African monkey, were discovered abandoned and hungry on 31 January but have since been taken into care by the KWS and given toys to play with. "The six babies were squashed in a small crate together with four Guenons. They were in a very pathetic

condition", Eric Kalla, an assistant director at the (KWS) told Reuters.

"They had begun eating their own faecal matter due to hunger and unfortunately one baby chimp died due to stress and starvation," he said.

He said the animals, en route from Egypt to Nigeria via Kenya's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, belonged to a woman who had claimed the crate was a kennel containing dogs.

Chimpanzees and other great apes are classified as highly endangered species by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Trading in them is banned. — MNA/Reuters



ပညာရေးနှင့် သစ်စီးပွားဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Boeing unveils long-range version of 777 airliner

EVERETT (Washington), 16 Feb — Boeing Co. unveiled a long-range version of its 777 commercial airliner on Tuesday, which the company said can fly from London to Sydney, making it the world's longest-range commercial aircraft.

With the launch of the new 777-200LR (long range) "Worldliner," Boeing is hoping to attract airlines that will ferry passengers directly between multiple points.

The new, 301-passenger, long-range 777 is expected to make its first flight in March and will be delivered first to Pakistan International Airlines, its launch customer for the new version of the 777, in January of 2006.

The twin-engine airplane, when equipped with three optional fuel

tanks, will be capable of flying 9,420 nautical miles (17,446 kilometres), enough to "connect any two cities in the world today," said Lars Andersen, Boeing's vice-president in charge of the 777 programme at Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

"This is the longest-range airplane in the world," Andersen told a crowd of customers, suppliers, employees and reporters at Boeing's Everett plant north of Seattle, where the Jumbo 747 and 767 planes are also built.

Even with a full-passenger payload in a typical three-class configuration, the 777-200LR will be able to connect cities as far-flung as Los Angeles and Johannesburg, London and Sydney, as well as New York and Jakarta, Boeing said. There's a hitch, though. Although the plane can fly from London to Sydney, it will have to stop once to return via the same route to refuel, since it would be flying against high-altitude jet streams going back.

MNA/Reuters



Sughra Junejo, a member of the Board of Directors of Pakistan Airlines, talks to reporters and Boeing Co employees at the unveiling of the first Boeing 777-200LR Worldliner as it is presented to employees and press on Tuesday, 15 Feb, 2005 at the Boeing Co assembly facility in Everett, Washington. —INTERNET

Govt seizes 'fantasy passports' created by Austrian artist

CINCINNATI, 16 Feb — Fake passports created by an Austrian artist for a contemporary museum exhibit were confiscated at an airport after a Customs agent thought they might be harmful if imported, government and museum officials said.

"I think it says a lot about the condition of our world today, that everyone is understandably on the alert," Contemporary Arts Center director Linda Shearer said Tuesday.

The items belonged to an art group headed by Vienna artist Robert

Jelinek, and included what the government described as "fantasy passports," along with ink pads, rubber stamps and ink. They were taken from Jelinek's luggage February 9 in Detroit as he headed for Cincinnati. —

MNA/AP

Pig embryos can provide sources of new organ for people

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — Pig embryos could provide sources of new organ and tissue transplants for people, and they may pose fewer risks than using material from adult animals, Israeli researchers reported on Monday.

They found that if cells were taken from pig embryos at precisely the right time, they grew into liver, pancreas and lung tissues in mice.

"Considering the ethical issues associated with human embryonic stem cells or with precursor tissue obtained from human abortions, we believe that the use of embryonic pig tissue could afford a more

simple solution to the shortage of organ donors," said Yair Reisner of the Weizmann Institute of Science, who led the study.

Writing in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Reisner and colleagues said their findings also help explain why earlier experiments did not work. If transplanted at the wrong time, they found

the pig embryo cells grew into tumours called teratomas instead of the desired tissue.

Not only is there a shortage of whole organs for transplant, but tissue transplants could be used to treat diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's and liver failure. Experiments have been done using cells

from human foetuses as well as from animals.

Many researchers are working on the possibility of animal to human transplants, also called xenotransplants. Pigs are a popular choice because they are about the same size as humans and have a similar physiology.

MNA/Reuters

BBC's top executive leaves job for TV company

LONDON, 16 Feb — Lorraine Heggessey, the top executive at the BBC's flagship television station BBC1, is leaving the publicly funded broadcaster to become chief executive of TV production company Talkback Thames.

Heggessey, the first woman to run BBC1, built it into Britain's most popular channel by expanding mainstream programming like "EastEnders" and moving news and current affairs programmes to later time slots.

She commissioned hits including the nature documentary "Blue Planet" and the espionage drama "Spooks".

Her departure comes as Director General Mark Thompson cut hundreds of jobs and demanded across-the-board budget cuts. —MNA/Reuters

A glass of wine a day keeps heart risk at bay

LONDON, 16 Feb — It's official. A glass of wine a day keeps heart risk at bay — at least for women.

Researchers at Sweden's Karolinska Institute in Stockholm found that women who had already suffered a heart attack or had heart surgery for blocked arteries had higher Heart Rate Variability (HRV) if they drank moderately than if they were teetotal.

HRV measures the intervals between heartbeats, with lower rates being associated with higher risks of heart disease and death.

"We found that women who drank five grammes or more of wine a day had increased Heart Rate Variability," Profes-

sor Staffan Ahnve told Reuters by telephone.

But he warned against binge drinking. What was beneficial was a limited regular intake.

More importantly the results were strongly seen with wine, with little effect from beer or spirits.

MNA/Reuters

2004 saw record growth for int'l trademark system

GENEVA, 16 Feb — The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) said Tuesday that the use of the international trademark registration system reached a record high in 2004.

Some 29,459 international trademark applications were received in 2004, an increase of 23.5 per cent over 2003, WIPO assistant director general who oversees trademark questions, Ernesto Rubio, told reporters here.

The international trademark registration system, known as the "Madrid" system, is a user-friendly and cost-effective service offered by the WIPO which facilitates the process of securing trademark protection in multiple countries.

For the twelfth consecutive year, Germany topped the list of biggest users with 5,393 international applications (18.3 per cent), followed by France with 3,503 (11.9 per cent), Italy 2,499 (8.5 per cent), the Benelux

countries 2,482 (8.4 per cent) and Switzerland 2,133 (7.2 per cent).

Within 12 months of signing up to the Madrid Protocol—one of two treaties that govern the system — the United States filed 1,734 (5.9 per cent) international applications to rank sixth.

Statistics for 2004 also show a marked increase in the number of international trademark applications originating from countries such as China (up 115 per cent), Australia (up 100.9 per cent) and South Korea (up 86.8 per cent).

"We are already beginning to see significant increases in the use of the system now that the United States and the European Community are party to the Madrid Protocol," said Rubio. —MNA/Xinhua



In this undated photo provided by the National Park Service, a female polar bear and her cubs are shown in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. —INTERNET

## Servette Geneva exists out of Swiss top league

BERN (Switzerland), 17 Feb — Switzerland's top football league will be missing a club when the season resumes this weekend following confirmation that Servette Geneva are no longer in business.

The Genevan side announced on Wednesday that a late bid to rescue the bankrupt club had failed to materialize. Formed 115 years ago, Servette were the only Swiss club never to have been relegated from the top division.

Matters off the pitch were to ensure the club's collapse, however, following the club's takeover by former player's agent Marc Roger.

The Frenchman ran up debts of more than ten million Swiss francs (\$8.33 million) after authorising the acquisition last summer of 21 players, including French World Cup winner Christian Karembeu. Many of the players, including Karembeu, have since left the club after their wages stopped being paid.

Servette Geneva will continue to exist only as an under-21 side, playing in Switzerland's lower divisions.—MNA/Reuters

## German referee refuses to utter Robert Hoyzer's name

FRAICCURT, 17 Feb — Leading German referee Markus Merk refused to even utter the name of former colleague Robert Hoyzer on Tuesday as he spoke of the bitterness and betrayal he felt at the country's match-fixing scandal.

"I've taken that name out of my vocabulary forever," said Merk, who looked close to tears when speaking of German football's biggest corruption case in more than 30 years.

The country has been shocked by revelations from 25-year-old Berlin referee Hoyzer, who has admitted fixing games and has implicated several other German referees in his statements to Berlin prosecutors.

"These past days have been difficult for us," said Merk. "They have been bitter days, too, because football and refereeing are a part of me.

"Four weeks ago, I would have staked my life on any of my colleagues, my team," added Merk, who was speaking at a workshop attended by 46 candidate referees for the 2006 World Cup.

Merk pledged to do all he could to restore the credibility of his profession.



German referee Markus Merk  
INTERNET

"The positive thing about this is that people have come up to me and asked me to help in restoring football's credibility," said Merk, one of FIFA's most senior referees.

"The coming weeks will be difficult but we accept the challenge. We will fight to make football credible again  
MNA/Reuters

## Maradona insists his visit to Cartagena just holiday

BOGATA, 17 Feb — Diego Maradona insisted that his visit to the Caribbean city of Cartagena was for nothing more than a holiday and asked to be left in peace on Wednesday.

Maradona, who spoke to reporters for the first time since he arrived a week ago, gave a 10-minute interview in front of the apartment block where he is staying.

He allowed himself to be photographed with some European tourists and his presence in the street caused a traffic jam in the chic neighbourhood.

"I've just come to say hello and respect your

work," said the 44-year-old former Argentina captain, who has ballooned in weight and is scarcely recognisable from his playing days.

"Cartagena has treated me phenomenally, I'm unwinding." He added: "I'm very well and I'm grateful to Colombia for the affection I've been shown. I hope you respect me as well."

Maradona arrived in the

city last Wednesday amid rumours he was to have liposuction but doctors denied he would have surgery on Tuesday.

"He's here in Cartagena on holiday, for a rest. He's been here a couple of times to check his arterial pressure," the director of the Medigel Clinic Francisco Holguin said.

"The possibility of operation has not been considered."

Maradona spent more than a week in the intensive care unit of a Buenos Aires hospital last April with heart and breathing problems. He was then confined to a psychiatric clinic by his family.

In September, Maradona returned to Cuba, where he has lived since 2000, to undergo more treatment for drug addiction but under a stricter regime than before.—MNA/Reuters



Belgian Kim Clijsters celebrates her first round 6-2, 6-3 victory over Croatian Jelena Kostanic at the Proximus Diamond Games tennis tournament in Antwerp—INTERNET

## Man U still richest club in world of football

LONDON, 17 Feb — Manchester United are still the richest club in the world of football, as revenues from the game's top 20 teams head towards the two billion pound (3.78 billion US dollars) mark this year, a report showed on Thursday.

United's income of 171.5 million pounds (323.8 million US dollars) for the 2003-04 season kept them top of the pile for the eighth year in a row, according to the Football Money League report published by consultants Deloitte.

Spanish giants Real Madrid are second with 156.3 million pounds after halving the gap with United since last year, while Italy's AC Milan are third on 147.2 million pounds.

Chelsea, bought by Russian oil tycoon Roman Abramovich in July 2003, and Barcelona, the team they face in the Champions League knockout phase at the Nou Camp next week, are the biggest movers up the rich list.

Both clubs have jumped six places, with Premier League leaders Chelsea rising to fourth on 143.7 million pounds and Primera Liga leaders Barcelona moving up to seventh on 112 million pounds.

Chelsea failed to win any silverware in Abramovich's first season but the appointment of Jose Mourinho, who replaced Claudio Ranieri as manager last June, and a further spending spree on players looks likely to pay handsome dividends.

Along with their Champions League campaign and top slot in the domestic league, Chelsea have a League Cup final with Liverpool on February 27 and are through to this weekend's FA Cup fifth

round against Newcastle United.

Juventus slipped to fifth on 142.4 million pounds and English champions Arsenal lie sixth on 115 million pounds, just ahead of Barcelona, who have benefited from large rises in broadcasting and matchday revenue.

Barcelona's income should increase further after this season's Champions League run, though the Catalan club are still refusing any shirt sponsorship.

Arsenal can look forward to the future benefits of their new 60,000-seater Emirates Stadium, which is due to open for the 2006-07 season.

The remaining top 10 places are filled by Inter Milan (110.3 million pounds), Bayern Munich (110.1) and Liverpool (92.3) — with Bayern having slipped from fifth place last year.

Underpinning the wealth of Europe's top clubs has been the advent of subscription television over the past 10 years — a situation the report believes is unlikely to change.

"Football is critical to the development of a strong and sustainable subscriber base for Pay-TV broadcasters," said Deloitte partner Dan Jones. "Pay-TV needs top-level football as much as football needs Pay-TV's revenues, and therefore we expect broadcasting revenues for the 'best properties' to hold their values."—MNA/Reuters

## Valencia win over Steaua Bucharest with 2-0

VALENCIA, 17 Feb — UEFA Cup holders Valencia began the defence of their title with a 2-0 win over Steaua Bucharest in the opening leg of their first knockout round tie at the Mestalla on Wednesday.

A close-range strike from Italy forward Marco Di Vaio late in the first half and a cleverly placed free kick from Argentine playmaker Pablo Aimar in the second put the Spanish champions in charge ahead of next week's return in Bucharest.

The victory will come as a relief to Valencia coach Claudio Ranieri, who has come under heavy pressure after his side effectively waved goodbye to their chances of retaining their domestic title with a five-match winless run in the league.

Valencia, one of eight third-placed teams to enter the UEFA Cup after exiting the Champions League, made a bright start against the visitors with striker Mista and Portuguese defender Marco Caneira both going close with early headers.

Di Vaio then hit the post midway through the half but it was Steaua who were denied the lead a few minutes later when keeper Andres Palop got his hand

to a shot from Cristian Ciocoiu after the striker intercepted a poor back pass from Stefano Fiore.

Valencia eventually took the lead against the former European champions six minutes before the break when Di Vaio cracked home from eight metres after Caneira got his head to a Fiore corner.

Aimar doubled their advantage early in the

second half when he caught goalkeeper Vasili Khomutovski out with a curling free kick from the edge of the area.

Steaua pushed hard for an away goal to keep the tie alive but their only clear chance came when striker Andrei Cristea skimmed the post after a loose ball had fallen into his path midway through the second half.

MNA/Reuters



Valencia's Portuguese Marco Caneira (L) jumps next to Steaua's Cristian Ciocoiu during their UEFA Round of 32 first leg soccer match at Valencia's Mestalla Stadium, on 16 Feb, 2005. Valencia won 2-0.—INTERNET



**National Convention reconvenes...**

(from page 11)  
situation. Thus, compensation and insurance for those persons should be included in the Union

strong armed forces. The clarification concerning the defence of the Union and its parts is much appropriate. Thus, the seven

the national strength ensuring peace and security and protecting the lives and property of the people.

In accord with one of the already-laid-down ba-



Arrival of diplomats and officials of UN agencies to the National Convention at Nyaungnabin Camp.— MNA

legislative list.

State service personnel delegate group discussed in support of the seven points clarified by the Work Committee Chairman.

Other invited persons delegates group said that since the end of Cold War, the world has expected the emergence of multipolar system. But what it really sees at present is the emergence of the unipolar system. It is time the world nations paid attention to peace and security. They need regional cooperation, self-reliant efforts and

points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in Union legislative power.

It gave a separate suggestion, saying that success has been achieved in ensuring regional peace and stability and development, narcotic drugs elimination, and national defence due to participation of peace groups. Their participation has also benefited the Union. They can be called the extra strength of the Union. In the future also, these groups should be maintained as

basic principles, which says, "The Defence Services Commander-in-Chief is the Supreme Commander of all the armed forces", these armed groups should be kept under the command of the Commander-in-Chief in the future.

The use of nuclear energy for defence and military purpose is being opposed in the world at present. Thus, inserting the basic principles concerning nuclear energy, nuclear fuel and radiation and mineral resources that produce them in defence and security sector

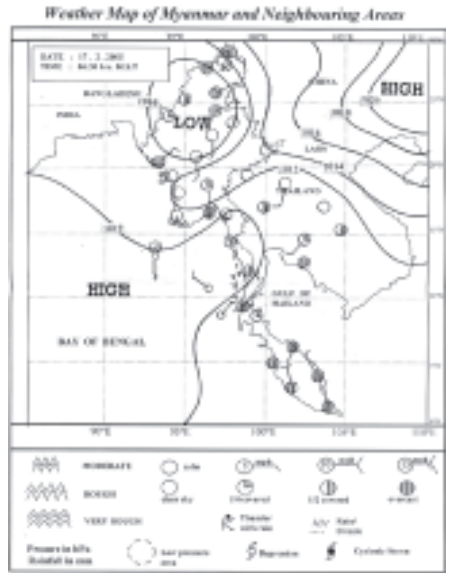
will be like inviting criticism worldwide. Thus, the matter should be included in energy, electricity and forestry sectors.

Next, the plenary session went into recess for lunch.

It resumed at 1 pm. Alternate panel of chairmen of the meeting, U Tun Yin Law of delegate group of political parties and U Yaw Aye Hla of delegate group of representatives-elect explained suggestions made by the delegates about detailed basic principles on power sharing of legislation that will be included in the State constitution and the meeting went into recess again. Later, the plenary session of the meeting resumed. Alternate panel of chairmen of the meeting, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of delegate group of national races explained suggestions made by the delegates about detailed basic principles on power sharing of legislation that will be included in the State constitution.

The plenary session of the NC continues tomorrow.

MNA



**WEATHER**

Thursday, 17 February, 2005

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather has been generally fair in remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (1.18) inches. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below normal in Eastern Shan and Kayin States and Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kayah State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Southern Shan, Rakhine and Chin States, (7°C) above normal in Kachin State and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were (8°C) each in Lashio and Kengtung.

Maximum temperature on 16-2-2005 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 17-2-2005 was 60°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-2-2005 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 16-2-2005 was (9.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 17-2-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 9 mph from Southwest at (15:00) hours MST on 16-2-2005. **Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 18-2-2005:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and northern Shan States, upper Sagaing Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin State, Mandalay, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Possibility of isolated light rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-2-2005:** Partly cloudy. **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-2-2005:** Partly cloudy.

**Earthquake report**

(Issued at 14:00 hours MST on 17-2-2005)  
An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.9) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1000) miles Southwest of Kaba-Aye Seismological Observatory was recorded at (12) hrs (06) min (04) sec MST on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2005.

**Daw Tin Tin Mya**

(Mrs. Agnes Sein Tun)

Age-83

Daughter of (U Maung Maung Gyi and Daw Khin Khin Nyunt), beloved wife of (U Sein Tun Frank) of No-5 Thukhawady Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, U Swe Tun (Bryan)-Theingi Lwin (Diana), U Htay Aung-Tin Ohmar Tun (Winsome), grand mother of (Moe Thaw Aung), Lin Khine Aung-Thin Saint Nyo, Phyo Zaw Aung, Khin Myitta Tun, Myitzu Tun, Tin Thiri Aung, Maung Than Htaik, passed away peacefully on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2005 at 4:45 pm.

Her remains will be cremated on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2005 according to her wishes.

**The bereaved family**

**TV Myanmar**

**Friday, 18 February**  
**View on today:**

- 7:00 am**  
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**  
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**  
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**  
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**  
5. အတီပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am**  
6. The mirror images of the musical oldies
- 8:20 am**  
7. ကံတင်ဘီးလင်းစရာလှောင်တစ်
- 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. အစားသင့်တော်မှုလုပ်ငန်းစဉ် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (ခေတ်စား၊ ရုက္ခဗေဒ သရုပ်ဖော်ပြပွဲ) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm**  
6. Song of national races
- 5:30 pm**  
7. အတီပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 5:40 pm**  
8. ရုက္ခဗေဒစာအုပ်နှင့် အားကစားအခြေခံ
- 5:50 pm**  
9. Musical programme
- 6:05 pm**  
10. "တော်လှန်ရေးတပ်တော်တို့ရဲ့ ချိုးသန့်ရေးနိဂုံး၊ ကြည်နိုး တင်တင်လှ၊ ခါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်နိုး"

- 6:10 pm**  
11. Discovery
- 6:20 pm**  
12. Song of yesteryears
- 6:30 pm**  
13. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**  
14. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**  
15. မိုင်းငြိမ်းစာတော်လမ်းတွဲ "ရုစီသောညီမ" (အပိုင်း-၈)
- 7:35 pm**  
16. တိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက လှပစေစော
- 7:45 pm**  
17. အမျိုးသားညီလာခံဂုဏ်ပြုစား
- 8:00 pm**  
18. News
- 19. International news**
- 20. Weather report**
- 21. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "ရုစီသောညီမ" (အပိုင်း-၂) လွင်မိုးသုဇာတ်ကော်တော်စိုးဦး ခါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်နိုး**
- 22. The next day's programme**

**Radio Myanmar**

**Friday, 18 February**  
**Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: I'll be waiting there for you
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: Jenny
- 8.50 am** National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music: -Addicted to bass
- 9.05 am** International news
- 9.10 am** Music: Rocking good way
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music  
-Kiss from a rose  
-Look what love has done
- 9.00 pm** Radioplay
- 9.15 pm** Article/music
- 9.25 pm** Music at your request  
-Bluer than blue  
-Heartache to night  
-Good night
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL

# National Convention reconvenes

## 99.44% of delegates attend; diplomats, journalists observe

YANGON, 17 Feb— With the six objectives — Union; Non-disintegration of national solidarity; Perpetuation of sov-



NCCC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an opening address at the National Convention. — MNA

reignty; Flourishing of genuine multi party democracy system; Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State; and For the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State — the National Convention reconvened at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, Chairman of the National Convention Con-

vening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of the NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen and officials of respective subcommittees, delegates of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu

National Development Party, and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, and independent representatives, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of 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 peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, (See page 7)

**PM Lt-Gen Soe Win to pay official visit to Philippines**  
YANGON, 18 Feb — At the invitation of the President of the Republic of the Philippines Her Excellency Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win will pay an official visit to the Republic of the Philippines in the near future. — MNA



# Delegates to make discussions within framework of procedures to lay down basic principles to be included in drafting a durable Constitution

YANGON, 17 Feb— The following is a translation of the clarifications on the procedures of the National Convention by the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary. **Esteemed Chairman and delegates,** I wish peace and happiness and auspiciousness for the NCCC Chairman

and members, the NCC Work Committee members, the NCC Management Committee members and delegates. I would like to express my pleasure for meeting the delegates again at the National Convention. At the National Convention which recon-

vened on 17 May last year, the delegates held discussions to lay down detailed basic principles for sharing the legislative power. At this meeting, the delegates will have to make discussions to approve the detailed basic principles in sharing the legislative power and to lay down detailed basic principles for sharing the executive and judicial powers. Delegates who attended the Convention held on 17 May 2004 were invited according to the list of last year. New faces are included in the present National Convention as they have been se-

lected for vacancies occurred during the period due to certain reasons. The National Convention last year did not face any difficulties, but achieved success thanks to the delegates who took part in it with firm conviction adhering to the procedures of the National Convention. For the new delegates to know the procedures and other necessary things and as a reminder for the other delegates, I will now explain the procedures, and messaging, health, welfare, Entertainment and security matters for the delegates. (See page 9)



NCCC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explains procedures for convening National Convention. — MNA

**INSIDE**  
The government was thus looking forward to mature time and circumstances. Now, the nation's economy had improved to a certain degree. As small, medium and large bridges could be built technologically, the government gained technical know-how and experiences.  
**(Page 6)** U ZAW