Welcome the National Convention.
Li-Gen Aung Htwe inspects Saikhaung-Namhsam railroad project

YANGON, 19 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected paving of streets and renovation of public buildings in the city. The commissioner gave instructions on meeting the set standard, timely completion of the work and making strenuous efforts.

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

Commander inspects paving of roads

YANGON, 18 May — Workshop on Monitoring and Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children on 26 June

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

It was attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Rehabilitation Maj-Gen Myint Swe, President of MWAF Prof Dr Daw Khin Maung and Shwe Dun Myint, Acting Managing Director of UNICEF Myanmar. In the briefing hall, Chief Engineer (Drilling) U Ye Khun and Acting Managing Director U Myint Kyi reported on successful drilling of the well and production. The minister presented cash prizes to employees who participated in drilling the well. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected progress of building Saikhaung Namhsam railroad and earthwork.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects repairing of Strand Road in Lannmadaw Township.

YANGON, 19 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than and officials arrived at NannmAh No 3 bridge construction site on Saikhaung-Namhsam railroad road on 14 May afternoon.

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

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

Next, Li-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected progress of building Saikhaung Namhsam railroad and earthwork in the briefling hall of Pon Creek Bridge project, Col Thaung Aye of local station reported on sector-wise completion of Ponchau-Namhsam railroad. Project Director U Tin Soe briefed them on progress of implementing the project and Deputy Minister U Pe Than on requirements of the project. Next, Taunggyi District PDC Chairman Lt-CoMyint Tin and Loilem PDC Chairman Lt-CoMyint Tin reported on building the bridges on the railroad. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint reported on cooperation of Tatmadawmen and departmental personnel in building the railroad and bridges.

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

Workshop on Monitoring and Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children on 26 June

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

The minister presented cash prizes to employees who participated in drilling the well. Next, the minister inspected the well in progress. New well No 22 can produce 3.7 million cu-ft of gas from well No 22. Afterwards, the minister inspected connecting of 3.3-mile long 6" diameter natural gas pipeline from well No 22 with Nyaungdon-Myochau 10" diameter pipeline. The connection tasks will be completed in the last week of May. On completion, 3.7 million cu-ft of gas from well No 22 will be combined into the main pipeline. The Minister inspected test-running of the Liquefied Natural Gas Plant of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise in Nyaungdon Township.

At present, 17 wells in Nyaungdon Oil and Gas Field produce 96.9 million cu-ft of natural gas and 1,220 barrels of condensate daily and distribute them to natural gas power plants and factories in Yangon and central area of the country. — MNA

Men inspect Nyaungdon Oil and Gas Field

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Bomb kills head of Iraq Governing Council

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

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

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

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

The council president’s position rotates monthly. Saleem’s death occurred about six weeks before the United States plans to transfer power to Iraqis and underscores the risks facing those perceived as owing their positions to the Americans.

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

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

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

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

Annan says violence may go on after Iraq hand-over

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arab nations rule out sending peacekeepers to Iraq

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

And Jordan’s King, whose country does not deploy its military there, ruled out the proposal at least in the near future, while some said questions like who would pay for such a force should be answered before it can be seriously considered.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher, whose country does not support US military forces in Iraq, was cautious about sending Arab peacekeepers while the American presence was strong.

According to the United Nations resolution that established the UN presence in Iraq, a force of Arab countries would intervene the US-led forces to protect the UN mission, in case the US military was overpowered in its mission.

Last month, Powell defended the US position to such a force. The Arab League voted to keep the same resolution.

Kerry says US troops need clear mission, tactics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PoWells says CIA wrong on Iraq “mobile labs”

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

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

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

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

He acknowledged on April 2 the information was suspect but stopped short of casting any public conclusions.

In his comments on NBC, Powell went further.

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

As recently as January, Vice-President Dick Cheney cited the discovery of two trucks as “conclusive” evidence of the mobile labs described by Powell. But CIA Director George Tenet later told Congress the assessment was wrong, and the CIA in a new report conceded the好奇不被社会性别化 considering the discovery.

A CIA spokesman declined comment.—MNA/Reuters

Israel, Jordan sign new free trade agreement

DEAD SEA COAST (Jordan), 18 May — Israel and Jordan signed a trade accord on Sunday that will eliminate duties on thousands of goods passing between the two countries.

The deal was sealed at the World Economic Forum. Jordanian Industry and Trade Minister Mohammad Malahyekh told a news conference, “We were ready to do it because it was in the interest of Jordan.”

“But it doesn’t downplay our concerns over Israel’s policies,” he said. “There are two tracks — politics and economics. We hope that economic relations will help ease political tension.”

Jordan is one of two Arab countries to have signed a peace treaty with Israel, in 1994. The other was Egypt in 1979.

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

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

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

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

“The current situation is a situation of occupation, so is conceivable or logical that Arab countries or Arab armies join in occupying an Arab country?” Moussa said.—INTERNET
Jordan won’t send peacekeepers to Iraq

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

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

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

“I’ve taken the decision, truly, from a moral point of view, that I don’t think it’s right for Jordan to send troops to Iraq. And I don’t think it’s right, at the same time, for anybody else (bordering Iraq). ... We have our special interests,” he said. “It is right for Arab troops to be committed, but not elsewhere (bordering Iraq). ... We have our special interests,” he said.

He noted Jordan has sent troops elsewhere on peacekeeping missions, including Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo. He cited his country’s has been training Iraqis in Jordan and has medical facilities inside Iraq.

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

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

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

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

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

They will face a military judge from Iraq from a US base in Germany. Another defendant, Spc Jeremy C Sivits, who took photographs of naked Iraqi prisoners in a pile on the prison floor in November 2003, goes on trial Wednesday before a special court martial.

Sivits could be sentenced to up to a year in prison, a two-thirds pay cut for up to 12 months and receive a bad conduct discharge. The three others to be arraigned face more serious charges in a general court martial.

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

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

Iraqi FM affirms keenness on cooperation with neighbours

Kuwait City, 18 May—Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari affirmed Sunday his country’s keenness on cooperation with its neighbouring countries.

In his speech at the third session of “The Region and the Future” Conference entitled “Iraq and the Future” Sunday, Zibari said “Iraq is in need for heavy political influence and a review of detention facilities in other countries where the US military hold prisoners. Despite huge global interest, Wednesday’s hearings will not be broadcast on radio or television.

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

Italian soldier’s death in Iraq rolls Rome

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

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

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

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

Parents say soldier from Culpeper killed by Iraqi sniper

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

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

Details of the incident were unavailable, and it was not immediately determined whether other American soldiers were killed or injured.

Cowherd was a platoon commander with the 1stBrigade 1st Armored Division. He was in charge of 16 men and four tanks. A 2003 graduate of the US Military Academy, Cowherd leaves a wife in Yorktown. He is Culpeper County’s first casualty of the Iraq war.—Internet

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

Al-Jazeera shows tape of two Russian hostages

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

“A state is a group calling itself the Army of the Victorious Sect (Jash al-Ta’ifa al-Mansoura) called on countries taking part in the ‘criminal project’ to withdraw their citizens before it was too late,” Jazeera said.

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

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

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

Iraq has been rocked by a series of foreign kidnappings, as well as revelations of US abuse of Iraqi prisoners and persistent anti-coalition violence.— MNA/Reuters
Iranian leaders condemn US forces in Iraq

IRAN, 18 May — Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday called for US forces to leave Iraq and condemned the United States for their “ Shameful and stupid” actions in Shiite holy cities.

Khamenei’s statement came a week after Iran’s Shiite clerical leadership had already been relatively muted in its criticism of the US-led invasion and occupation of its western neighbour, while calling repeatedly for the occupying forces to leave Iraq as soon as possible.

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

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

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

Khamenei also called plans to hand over control to the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council on June 30 “deceitful” and “emptiness”, he said.

“Iraqi politicians should know that any of them who come to power, if they are appointed by the Americans, they will be just as hated as the Americans,” he said.

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

“Otherwise the American Government will be responsible for the consequences,” Asefi said in comments appearing on the ministry’s web site.

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

MNA/Reuters

Gulf Arab leaders condemn US abuses in Iraq

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

A statement issued after a summit of the pro-US Gulf Cooperation Council states expressed their “forced condemnation and rejection of the inhuman treatment and crimes practiced by the occupation troops against Iraqi prisoners.”

It said the abuses violated the fourth Geneva Convention for the treatment of prisoners under occupation.

Pictures of US forces abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday, 17 May, 2004. Ezzatined Saleem was among four Iraqis killed in the blast. — Internet

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seven US guards charged in Iraq prison abuse cases

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

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

Specialist Sabrina Harman, 26, of Alexandria, Virginia, faces criminal charges including one count of conspiring to maltreat prisoners, three counts of assaulting prisoners by battery and conduct discrediting the service.

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Iraq torments Blair as political troubles deepen

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

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

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

And support from key allies — the official IRA news agency reported on Monday that Blair would stay put — and his own vow to fight on have done little to quell speculation he may quit.

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

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

Prescott said in the Times newspaper on Saturday that senior ministers had discussed a future without Blair, but he later downplayed the significance of his comments, saying there had been leadership speculation, but there was no race for the Prime Minister’s position.

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

It said Brown’s allies had made detailed plans for a government led by him after a handover by Blair at Labour’s Party conference in the autumn.

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

While the party is still widely expected to win the next general election, Labour’s poll numbers show the party is more divided over the war than ever.

— MNA/Reuters

US should apologize for attacking holy sites in Iraq

TEHRAN, 18 May — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said on Sunday that his government should apologize for the damage of other countries in Iraq and occupying Iraq, has not showed waning support for the British Prime Minister and a newspaper saying top members of his Cabinet had discussed his succession.

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

On Monday, Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, a special armed force in charge of national security, encouraged Iranians to attend the demonstration scheduled on Wednesday against US attacks on Shiite holy cities.

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

Iran, as a Shiite-dominated Islamic country, has been keeping a close eye on what was happening in Sunni-dominated Iraq.

The Sunday Times newspaper said the Iraq government led by him after a handover by Blair at Labour’s Party conference in the autumn.

— MNA/Reuters

Anxious Italy urges US caution in Iraqi cities

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

Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said on Sunday.

An opinion survey found nearly half of voters think Blair should step down before the next election, expected around next May.

And support from key allies — the official IRA news agency reported on Monday that Blair would stay put — and his own vow to fight on have done little to quell speculation he may quit.

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

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

Prescott said in the Times newspaper on Saturday that senior ministers had discussed a future without Blair, but he later downplayed the significance of his comments, saying there had been leadership speculation, but there was no race for the Prime Minister’s position.

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

It said Brown’s allies had made detailed plans for a government led by him after a handover by Blair at Labour’s Party conference in the autumn.

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

While the party is still widely expected to win the next general election, Labour’s poll numbers show the party is more divided over the war than ever.

— MNA/Reuters

Italian soldier seriously wounded in Iraqi battles

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

Defence Ministry sources in Rome said the man was hit by a mortar round during the early evening.

Two other soldiers were slightly wounded in the attack.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Earlier in the day, two Italian paramilitary police troopers were slightly injured when a convoy transporting the Italian ambassador to Nassiriya, Barbara Contini, came under attack as it neared the local authority headquarters.

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

“You can’t see big movements of the militia, at least not on the roads, but we know that they’re positioned on rooftops,” Paola Dell’Aquila, who heads the ANSA news agency.

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

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

— ADK/UNESCAP sign MoU on future cooperation

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

ADB, UNESCAP sign MoU on future cooperation

The MoU was signed at the 54th annual meeting of the ADB Board of Governors.

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

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

Chino expressed satisfaction with the new agreement which emphasizes regional cooperation and poverty reduc-

— MNA/Reuters
**Only when National Convention succeeds, will a new democratic nation emerge**

U Phyo

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

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

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

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

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

Regarding Myanmar, in a 1947 constitution, then Myanmar introduced modern administrative system in early periods. If one system was not good, it was changed to another. There was an attempt to exercise modern administration to the fullest during the feudalist period.

In Myanmar there was a Yaza-dhamma-mathinga (Treatise written by Yawmingu U Po Haing on 7th Waxing of Nadu 1240 ME, 126 years ago). The treatise included thoughts and ideas believed to be an early constitution of Myanmar. It pointed out that constitutional monarchy should be practised in Myanmar instead of Feudalist system and it included the idea of democracy. The statements in the treatise regarding legislative bodies were based on the experience in Europe. It stated that there were two legislative bodies—a group of gentlemen agreed by townships and villages in the country and a group of people who occupied the state government. They were referred to the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The second constitution for Myanmar emerged 69 years ago. It was the Burma Act 1935. It is the regressive act designed to prolong Myanmar's life of poverty and servitude under the exploitation of British colonialists. The British named the act the new administrative act of Myanmar and it was approved by the British Parliament. Myanmar knew the act as 91-Departments administration. But it did not last long.

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

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

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

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

In 1962, when the ruling party (U, Bo and Thakhin) split and the nation was suffering weakness, a handful of Burmese submitted the Constitution System. It was, instead, leading to confederation or federation of sovereign states. After introducing such system for over ten years, the US was well convinced that it made its strength. That was why the US wanted to establish the Union nation in 1978. Myanmar was on the edge of collapse in 1962.

What happened in the US in 1862? The US forces led by President Abraham Lincoln had to establish the Union nation in 1862. The Civil War left over 600,000 people of both sides dead. Similarly, Myanmar strove politically for ensuring non-disintegration of the Union but in vain. The unavoidable Civil War would be fought on both sides.

Then, the Tatmadaw had to take up the duties of State due to the disintegration of the Union in 1962, scrapping the 1947 State Constitution.

The fourth endeavour for emergence of the new nation come into existence. We wish the National Convention succeeds, will a democratic new nation emerge in Myanmar? The Head of State Constitution.

The outcome of the National Convention will be released chapter-wise to the national people. To ensure the emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy, a enduring Constitution is required and the National Convention will lay down fundamental and detailed principles for drafting the Constitution. Only when the National Convention succeeds, will a democratic new nation come into existence. We wish the National Convention success. *****
Prime Minister meets delegation to Meeting on the Rights... (from page 16)

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

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

He said that Myanmar has been constantly making efforts in carrying out child care services.

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

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

Myanmar has a fine tradition of looking after children under close guardianship and Myanmar parents still care for their offspring who have already got married, he said.

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

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

The Prime Minister assessed the reports and delivered concluding remarks — MNA
of the State is formed with the President of the State, the
national political leadership role of the State.

Respected Chairman,

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

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

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

Pyidaungsu Taya Hluttaw has powers to is-
sue:

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

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

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

Respected Chairman,

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

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

To be able to draft the detailed principles on divi-
sion of power among the Pyidaungsu, regions or states
and self-administered areas, I will now present the matter
in three parts as follows:

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

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

Respected Chairman,

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

The National Convention Work Committee has al-
ready published the book “The Basic Principles and De-
tailed Basic Principles laid down by the National Con-
vention Plenary Sessions up to 30 March 1996”.

Respected Chairman,

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

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

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

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

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

The two Hluttaws are called the Pyidaungsu.

NCCWC Secretary U Thaung Nyunt gives clarifica-
tions. — MNA

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

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

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

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

Respected Chairman,

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

Respected Chairman,

As we, the brethren of the same ancestors, unitedly
took part in the struggle to liberate the Union of Myanmar
from under the yoke of the British colonialists, the coun-
try has become an independent and sovereign nation since
4 January 1948. The national brethren have been living
harmoniously warring off and winning victories over various
kinds of internal and external enemies.

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

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

Respected Chairman,

In connection with the sharing of legislative power
of the State, the National Convention has already laid
down a fundamental principle, — the legislative power of
the State is shared among Union Hluttaw, Region Hluttaws
and State Hluttaws; legislative power stipulated by the
State Constitution shall be distributed to self-administered
areas. The Work Committee has invited officials of the
ministries and respective departments and experts in their
respective professions and collected necessary facts and
documents after making discussions with them. Concern-
ing the tasks and responsibilities implemented by the min-
isteries, the work Committee has studied in detail weak-
nesses and advantages experienced by the central status
(See page 10)
Clarifications concerning the defence of the State and the security of the nation (from page 9)

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

Respected Chairman,

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

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

1) Defence sector
2) Security sector
3) Foreign Affairs sector
4) Economic sector
5) Energy sector
6) Industrial sector
7) Transport and communication sector
8) State security sector
9) Management sector
10) Judicial sector

Claroifications of National Convention concerning the Defence of the constitution with Defence of the constitutions of some of the other nations around the world.

Respected Chairman,

In the 1947 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar, the Parliament invested the legislative power concerning the State defence in the Hluttaws which are vested with the Tatmadaw to defend the nation. Almost every country has the right to defend against and ward off an intrusion of another nation. And if another country one-sidedly declares war on it, it also has the right to declare war on that nation. Fighting usually stops and ceasefire is made between two warring countries or by a country standing that reaches between them or the intervention or mediation of a third country or an organization to solve the problem. As the issue of the declaration of war and ceasefire is merely one of the internal processes of a country, and it has to be included in the highest legislative bodies of the nation concerned for approval.

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

Respected Chairman,

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

Respected Chairman,

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

Respected Chairman,

Now, I will come to point out one by one the matters that should be included in the Legislative list concerning 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).
The Union of Myanmar is a nation founded on international justice and morality. The Union of Myanmar also acknowledges that the policy of positive neutrality pursued by the Union of Myanmar is the international long-term interest of the countries and the world. The Union of Myanmar respects the equal status of all peoples and nations and the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

**Respected Chairman,**

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

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

**Section 212:** The Union of Myanmar affirms its devotion to the ideal of peace and friendly cooperation among nations founded on international justice and morality. In 1947, the National Convention Council announced the foreign policy of the Union of Myanmar in order to forge and cement Myanmar’s friendly relations with all countries.

**Respected Chairman,**

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

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

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

**Respected Chairman,**

The National Convention Convening Work Committee Secretary U Thaung Nyunt

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

**Respected Chairman,**

While practising the independent and active foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar renounces war as an instrument of national policy, and accepts the generally recognized principles of international law as its rule of conduct with foreign States.

**Respected Chairman,**

When our country was under the British occupation, the application of the foreign policy under the British and the occupation of our country by the British has still suffered the most serious repercussions and degradations. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the implementation of their resolutions’.

**Respected Chairman,**

With the market-oriented system now in practice in the Union of Myanmar, peoples from foreign countries are coming into and going out of the country on business and for other purposes. The citizens of our country who want to go abroad are allowed to enter a particular foreign country on condition that they bear the passport our country has issued and the entry visa the embassy of that particular country has issued. Such procedures are being practised in our country too. For that reason, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the participation in international, regional and bilateral conferences, seminars, meetings, associations and other organizations’.

**Respected Chairman,**

In our country, the citizens of our country who has committed a crime in a foreign country, in a country, the case may involve making a request to that country to return the guilty person to our country. For the same reason, if a person from other country on charges with a crime he has committed is in our country, the country concerned may ask our country to hand him over to that country. When it comes to the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned, some countries have a tradition of entering into such agreements as the Right of Extradition Treaty. By means of this, the country concerned has the right to officially ask for the extradition of the culprit to them if he is in a signatory country of the treaty. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned’.

**Respected Chairman,**

The principles of the constitutions of a large number of world nations indicates that in almost every country legisliative powers are invested only to their highest legislatures when it comes to making legislation relevant to the matters put under the foreign affairs sector, as far as it can be explained. It being the case, the esteemed delegates are to discuss as to whether or not detailed basic principles should be set in order to include in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned’.

**Respected Chairman,**

The Union of Myanmar, the departure from the country, immigration control and deportation order; and 7. the extradition of criminals to the home country and request made therefrom.

The State is making efforts to raise the living standard of the people. Since economy is the foundation for national development, the economic boost will benefit other remaining sectors as well. The National Convention implies raising the living standard of the people. As such kinds of tasks and work are being practised in our country too. For that reason, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the participation in international, regional and bilateral conferences, seminars, meetings, associations and other organizations’.

**Respected Chairman,**

When our country was under the British colonialism, for entering into international and regional pacts, agreements, conventions, and bilateral agreements and treaties with respective countries such as with international and regional organizations, in addition to ratifying contracts and enacting necessary laws, there are some cases concerning the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned, some countries have a tradition of entering into such agreements as the Right of Extradition Treaty. By means of this, the country concerned has the right to officially ask for the extradition of the culprit to them if he is in a signatory country of the treaty. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned’.

**Respected Chairman,**

When our country was under the British colonialism, permission was granted to foreigners from the British colonies to enter our country freely without needing any passport and visa. On account of it, generation after generation has still suffered the most serious repercussions and degradations. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the realization and materialization of international and regional treaties, agreements, conventions, bilateral agreements and other contracts’.

**Respected Chairman,**

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

**Respected Chairman,**

In our country, the citizens of our country who has committed a crime in a foreign country, in a country, the case may involve making a request to that country to return the guilty person to our country. For the same reason, if a person from other country on charges with a crime he has committed is in our country, the country concerned may ask our country to hand him over to that country. When it comes to the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned, some countries have a tradition of entering into such agreements as the Right of Extradition Treaty. By means of this, the country concerned has the right to officially ask for the extradition of the culprit to them if he is in a signatory country of the treaty. Therefore, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the extradition of criminals to the country concerned or from the country concerned’.

**Respected Chairman,**

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

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

**Section 212:** The Union of Myanmar affirms its devotion to the ideal of peace and friendly cooperation among nations founded on international justice and morality. In 1947, the National Convention Council announced the foreign policy of the Union of Myanmar in order to forge and cement Myanmar’s friendly relations with all countries.

**Respected Chairman,**

While practising the independent and active foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar renounces war as an instrument of national policy, and accepts the generally recognized principles of international law as its rule of conduct with foreign States.

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**Respected Chairman,**

While practising the independent and active foreign policy, the Union of Myanmar is taking measures for entering into international and regional pacts, agreements, conventions, and bilateral agreements and treaties with respective countries as well as with international and regional organizations, in addition to ratifying contracts and enacting necessary laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘the participation in international, regional and bilateral conferences, seminars, meetings, associations and other organizations’.

**Respected Chairman,**

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UN official calls on Africa to bolster trade, reduce poverty

KAMPALA, 18 May — Chief of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) KY Amoako has called on African finance ministers, central bank governors and other leaders to draw up programmes to bolster trade, reduce poverty and fight the AIDS scourge.

He made the appeal upon arrival in Entebbe International Airport Sunday evening to attend the week-long EC message beginning here Tuesday.

"All eyes in the world are on Africa. I hope the meeting can bolster trade so that Africa can meet the millennium goals to reduce poverty," he said.

African needs domestic investments and domestic savings, he said, adding, "We have been crying for access to markets, crying against agricultural subsidies by the rich nations."

He also said Africa needs TRADE MARK挫折
TREMCO INCORPORATED, a Company incor-
porated under the laws of the State of Ohio, at 1375 Green
Road Beachwood, Ohio 44122, U.S.A. is the Owner of the following Trademark-

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

China warned against rising road accidents

BEIJING, 18 May — Experts have warned that China is facing a deteriorating trend of rising traffic accidents, which have enabled the country to lead the world in terms of road traffic death toll.

Statistics of traffic and road accidents worldwide show that the global traffic death accident toll amounted to 500,000 in 2003, with the largest share of 104,000 reported in China, followed by India with 86,000, the United States with 40,000, and Russia with 26,000, Liren, former deputy director of the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau, said.

"Accidents caused by road traffic accidents have become one of the world's major social problems, and road traffic accidents have become the seventh leading killer of people in the world," Li Deshui, director of the National Bureau of Statistics of China, said at a news conference this week.

The current Chinese car population is 26 million, while road traffic accidents have increased by four times during the past decade, according to Li.

China's first economic census progresses smoothly

BEIJING, 18 May — China's first national economic census is progressing smoothly, state statistics authorities say, pledging that scientific and systematic statistical measures would be adopted to provide accurate economic information for the government's future work plan.

Li Deshui, director of the National Bureau of Statistics of China, said the economic census offices had been set up in all municipalities directly under the central government, provinces and autonomous regions.

"We've launched state-level triennial programs in three provinces of Jilin, Heilongjiang and Sichuan in December," Li said. "The final revision of the census plan will be completed by the end of July this year."

Marked as China's first large economic census, the current 2004 survey is designed to draw an economic panorama of China's secondary and tertiary industries and complete the database covering all economic sectors for the Chinese Government to outline its future economic and social plan.

Li's statement came as the Chinese Government has carried out six general surveys since establishing the cyclical census system of Beijing, but statistics released were often accused of being "inflated or inaccurate."

Although admitting some local governments cheated in statistical figures in the past, Li Quang, NBS' statistician and deputy director of the national economic census leading office, said the top priority of the current census was to ensure the government would get accurate, timely and comprehensive figures.

"Statistics will use some effective measures to tell the credibility of figures gathered," he said. "We will continue to reform our survey methods. Our goal is to improve the accuracy of statistics by keeping correcting errors."

At present, China is engaged in an overall reform of its statistical system to reach international standards. The draft of the Census Law has been sent to the National People's Congress Standing Committee, the country's legislature, for discussion. Li Quang said the legislation would provide a powerful legal guarantee for China's future economic development.

Besides, according to Song Xueqin, director of the information management department of the NBS' census centre, the trial census programmes will openly release and encourage the public to help reduce the huge survey budget.

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Clarifications concerning …

(See page 14)

Respected Chairman,

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

Respected Chairman,

In our country, there will be the Union budget as well as the budgets of the state. There will be the budgets of organizations at Union level as well as those of the Union governmental ministries. Besides, it will also contain a sum of money reserved for supplying to the regions and states when necessary, cash assistance and loans. After having been drawn in accord with the set procedures, the Union budget is to be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by the President or the one who is ordered to do so by the President at any time. Moreover, it is found that the highest legislative body of the State is vested with the legislative powers as to the finance and planning undertakings which have to be implemented harmoniously on a national scale, systematic measures are to be taken for raising necessary funds, and keeping and allocating them. To be able to systematically implement such tasks, a country has to prepare the budget to carry out the tasks.

Respected Chairman,

It is learnt that insurance organizations are estab-
lished in densely-populated areas and in areas where nu-
merous factories exist, as there arise the need to buy in-
surance. Hence, it should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the tax appeals.

Respected Chairman,

Clarifications concerning the existing international experiences, development plans are systematically and harmoniously laid down and implemented in the countries where market-oriented economic system is practiced. To realize the strategic objectives, there may be people who may oppose the tax collection and tax authorities in carrying out the tax collection for the successful materialization of the objectives in agricultural, industrial, commercial, communications and public service enterprises of the Union.

Respected Chairman,

The taxation system should not be a hindrance to the taxpayers, but should be considered deeply as a butteress of State’s economy. As taxation is associated with foreign trade, not only are the taxation management policies being highlighted, but also national and regional trade practices and customs are also to be followed with respect. Hence, to see that collection of taxes and revenues is common throughout the nation, while there should be a court of appeal in the regions where the people, who dispute the collection of taxes and revenues, may air their grievances. As the court of appeal is concerned with the entire State, it should be at the Union level. With the establishment of the court of appeal, the people can abide by the decision of the court. Since the court of appeal on the revenues has to pass judgements according to law, it will be necessary to introduce the relevant law. As the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the tax appeals.

Respected Chairman,

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

Respected Chairman,

With the establishment of the court of appeal, the people can abide by the decision of the court. Since the court of appeal on the revenues has to pass judgements according to law, it will be necessary to introduce the relevant law. As the Union Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the tax appeals.

Respected Chairman,

Respected Chairman,

Respected Chairman,

Respected Chairman,

Respected Chairman,

Respected Chairman,

Respected Chairman,

Respected Chairman,
**Respected Chairman,**

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

**Respected Chairman,**

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

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

**Respected Chairman,**

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

**Respected Chairman,**

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

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

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

**Respected Chairman,**

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

**Respected Chairman,**

I will present establishment of Regional or State Fund. As the Union Fund is to be established at the Union level, Regional or State Fund should be established in the respective Regions or States. Then only it will be possible to make use of the Regional or State budgets as necessary. It should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the establishment of Regional or State Fund.

**Respected Chairman,**

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

**Respected Chairman,**

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

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

**Respected Chairman,**

The State has been taking strict measures by introducing laws in order to curb production, sale and consumption of drugs including opium on a national scale. Further the drug problem exists in all the states and regions of the country since they endanger the life of the people. The respective Hluttaws are to promote laws in connection with the collection of the excise duties on the substances specified to those which are mentioned in item (a) or (b) above. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the excise duties.

**Respected Chairman,**

The small loans centers need to be opened not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas in order that the people in need of cash may have access to them and solve their financial problems. Although the small loans disbursment centers are run at present by the department concerned, there may arise the need to introduce laws in connection with the small loans enterprise to sell the business, through permits, to the private sector through tender system or auction according to the conditions in the Regions or States. Moreover, when the Regional or State Fund accumulates, the funds may be invested within the country. The profits can be added to the Regional or State Fund so that the increased funds may be used for the direct or indirect benefit of the people of the respective Regions or States. When the funds of the Regional or State Fund are invested within the country, it will be necessary to introduce laws to provide controls. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘disbursement of loans from the Regional or State Fund within the country’ and ‘investment of funds from the Regional or State Fund within the country’.

**Respected Chairman,**

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

The small loans centres need to be opened not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas in order that the people in need of cash may have access to them and solve their financial problems. Although the small loans disbursment centres are run at present by the department concerned, there may arise the need to introduce laws in connection with the small loans enterprise to sell the business, through permits, to the private sector through tender system or auction according to the conditions in the Regions or States. Moreover, when the Regional or State Fund accumulates, the funds may be invested within the country. The profits can be added to the Regional or State Fund so that the increased funds may be used for the direct or indirect benefit of the people of the respective Regions or States. When the funds of the Regional or State Fund are invested within the country, it will be necessary to introduce laws to provide controls. Hence, it should be included in the Region or State list to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with ‘disbursement of loans from the Regional or State Fund within the country’ and ‘investment of funds from the Regional or State Fund within the country’.

**Respected Chairman,**

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

**Respected Chairman,**

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

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

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 19 May, 2004

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Wednesday, May 19

View today:

7:00 am

1. National News
2. National News
3. National News
4. National News
5. National News
6. National News
7. National News
8. National News

7:05 am

1.40 pm

20:5-2004 (Thursday)

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

WEATHER

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain has been scattered in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Districts and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Shan State, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Districts. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Thanbyuzaykkyi (4.13 inches), Pathet (3.82 inches), Hmawm (3.78 inches), Namsun (3.32 inches) and Shweyin (2.99 inches).

Maximum temperature on 17-5-2004 was 29.1°C (84°F). Minimum temperature on 18-5-2004 was 15.9°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 am MST on 18-5-2004 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 17-5-2004 was (0.5) hours above, Rainfall on 18-5-2004 was 61mm (2.40 inches) at Yangon Airport, 36mm (1.41 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 34mm (1.33 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 224 mm (9.02 inches) at Yangon Airport and 219 mm (8.62 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 232 mm (9.13 inches) at central Yangon. Temperature and speed of wind at Yangon Airport (Kaba-Aye) was 22 mph from East at (08:40) hours MST on 18-5-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is strong in the Central Bay and south Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Sea cloud valid until evening of 18 May. Beach goers will be isolated in Shan State, Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in southern Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough sea will be experienced along the southwest Monsoon Coast. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) mph to (40) mph. Look for subsequent two days: The advance of southwest monsoon are likely into central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-5-2004: scattered to moderate degree of certainty (100%). Forecast for Myanmar and laying and neighbouring area for 19-5-2004: One or two rain or showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met a delegation which will attend the Meeting on the Rights of the Child to be held in Geneva, at Zeyathiri Beikman on 15 August 1991. Members of the Convention have to submit report. In 1995, Myanmar submitted its first report in accordance with the procedures of the convention. At the 14th meeting held in 1997, Myanmar delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement discussed Myanmar’s first report. The second national report was sent on 5 June 2002 and the report will be discussed at the 36th meeting, he said.

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

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

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

Respected Chairman and esteemed delegates,

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

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

Respected Chairman,

Detailed basic principles for Executive, Legislative and Judicial sectors, that are to be included in drafting the State Constitution, had already been laid down successfully at the National Convention, held from 17 May to 4 June 2004. At the meeting, facts in the second national report submitted by Myanmar will be discussed. Arrangements have been made to send a delegation led by Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw May May Yi. He said Myanmar became a member of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 15 August 1991. Members of the Convention have to submit report. In 1995, Myanmar submitted its first report in accordance with the procedures of the convention. At the 14th meeting held in 1997, Myanmar delegation led by the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement discussed Myanmar’s first report. The second national report was sent on 5 June 2002 and the report will be discussed at the 36th meeting, he said.

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

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

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

Respected Chairman,

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

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