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

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Clarifications on detailed basic principles for administration of justice sector, legislative powers, financial commission, taxation and funds allotment made at National Convention

According to detailed basic principles, seven regions, seven states and Union territories will emerge in the Union of Myanmar

Yangon, 21 May—The following is a translation of clarifications concerning detailed basic principles for administration of justice and financial matters 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**

Administration of justice sector
Respected Chairman,

I will now clarify matters concerning administration of justice. Of the basic principles already laid down by the National Convention, one of the aims and objectives of the State calls for ‘Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State’. The basic principle is an essential right of all the citizenry residing in the nation. Different levels of court and judges are to take special care to see that our citizens do not lose that right. Moreover, basic principles calling for independent administration of justice in accord with law; administration of justice in public except where restricted by law; and giving of the right of defence and the right of appeal by law in cases are laid down. In accordance with the basic principles laid down by the National Convention, judges at different levels of court are to practise the uniform laws for the people residing in the nation regardless of the rich or poor, position or class in passing judgements. They will not have the right to administer justice as they please. To be able to keep the machinery of administration of justice in operation, the judges need to be well-versed in judicial affairs and efficient. At the same time, they need to be morally upright, free from bias and bribery. They must be bold enough to pass judgements correctly. If such efficient and qualified judges administer justice they will win the trust and reliance of the public all the more.

Matters concerning administration of justice I have explained should be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws, as necessary.

Respected Chairman,

Other matters covered by the administration of justice are those concerning lawyers, penal laws and procedures to be followed in hearing the cases, civil laws and procedures to be followed in hearing civil cases and the Evidence Act which is to be followed in hearing criminal and civil cases. Moreover, there are other provisions that need to be followed in hearing specific cases. They are: matters concerning contract, arbitration, civil wrongs, insolvency, Trust and people who can administer because of the Trust, administrator, inheritance, family laws, transfer of property, guardians and wards and specific reliefs.

In the course of filing civil cases at courts, valuation of the suit has to be determined in consideration of the jurisdiction.

(See page 7)
To realize the goal of national education promotion plans

It can be said that contribution of the education sector towards national development determines the secure future of the State.

In other words, development and perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar and her people depends much on the education sector. With this in view, the Government is systematically carrying out education promotion programmes and implementing national education promotion plans.

The opening of the Conference on the Promotion of National Education of the Higher Education Sector 2004 of the Ministry of Education was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road on 20 May with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister said that scholars and members of the academic world are to accept the concept that national education promotion programmes are linked with endeavours for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and urged the academicians to make efforts for realization of national education promotion programmes with strong nationalism.

Concerning the expansion and development of universities and colleges, it can be seen that 13 new universities were established in the post-1988 period and 17 others upgraded. So the number of universities in the country today is thirty and the number of all universities and colleges for education in higher learning now stands at 154 in the country.

All are to accept the fact that for the long-term stability and development of the nation, development infrastructures in education, health, social and economic sectors are to be built based on nationalism. It is the national duty of the education sector to build the nation throughout education plans.

The National Convention is now in progress. So, the country has systematically embarked on the first stage of the seven-point policy programme for the emergence of a peaceful and stable State.

The delegates to the National Convention, consisting of members of national races, members of different strata and of many masses and classes of the people as well as various political parties, will hold deliberations and consultations in a positive and unified spirit to draw up a detailed basic principles to be included in the State Constitution.

At such a time, scholars and academicians are urged to lend themselves to endeavors for the success of the National Convention while striving for realizing the goals of national education promotion plans.

New generation golf tournament

YANGON, 20 May — Han Golf Masters New Generation Golf Tournament, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation for the emergence of new generation golfers will be held at Myanmar Golf Club (9th Mile) on 26 and 27 May. The tournament will be divided into five categories—the 8-10 class, the 10-12 class, the 12-13 class, the 15-17 class and the women’s under-18 class.

Those wishing to participate in the tournament may enlist at Han Event Management office, No 15/A, Kanbawza Street, Bahan Township (Tel-542989 and 723221) and can also dial Tel-635563 of HGM Pro Shop YGC, Tel-641341 of YCDC and Tel-661702 of Myanmar Golf Club not later than 25 May. — MNA

CORRIGENDUM

In the Myanmar Gazette which appeared on this page yesterday, please read U Myint Shwe, Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, the Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries. — Ed

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

POEM

From National Convention to New Nation

* Parliamentary Democracy
* Multi-party, that era
* Our people’s past path
* Remains traversed.
* From then on, we turned a corner
* One-party socialist
* Our people’s past path
* Remains traversed.
* Peaceful and stable nation
* Bereth remains the Tatmadaw
* Only National Politics
* We envision and chart.
* Looking at today’s era
* ’Tis the Tatmadaw Government’s
* For progress of entire nation
* Raise health, education standard.
* With agriculture base
* And social base
* All-round development including rural,
* ’Tis the era of development.
* The State means
* Appropriate population
* Proportionate territory
* These are requisites.
* “Government” and “Sovereignty”
* These must be four characteristics.
* For our path to our new Golden Land.
* The new State Constitution
* Is the basis.
* We who have been through varied eras
* Our national citizens
* From the National Convention
* To a new nation
* To march on together we congregate
* And deliberate.
* Mass of all brethren
* Make the Union strong
* Think of long-term future.
* In various fundamental bases
* To lotus will be evaluate with the pond
* To march on together we congregate
* Our people’s past path
* Remains traversed.
* Our people’s past path
* Remains traversed.

Khan Ye Thway (Ayethaya) (Trs)

Maj-Gen Kyaw Win hands over donated books to the Ministry of Science & Technology. — MNA

Books for three ministries

YANGON, 21 May — Books donated by well-wishers for development of the education sector in Myanmar were handed over to the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Culture at Tatmadaw Guest House this evening.

Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, on behalf of the donors, handed over the books numbering about 4,000 to the deputy ministers of the respective ministries. The books were donated by the Myanmar Youth Association formed with Myanmars pursuing or lecturing higher studies of in the US, American friends and families and students from various countries. They have already donated over 25,000 books, and books arrived in Myanmar in March and December 2002, May and September 2003, and May 2004. More books arrived at Yangon Port. — MNA

Murder committed over personal grudge in Tachileik

YANGON, 21 May — A murder was committed over personal grudge while carrying stimulant tablets on 17 May in Tachileik Township, Shan State (East).

On hearing some shots of small arms about 200 yards from Hwawaylan Village at 7.30 pm on 17 May, security members of Hwawaylan Check Point rushed to the scene and found red Ford with the number plate Kha/7458 which was riddled with bullets of small arms.

On the car, Driver Sai Kyauk, 40, son of U Maha Shan, of Pakha Village, Mongphon (A) Village-tract, Tachileik Township was found dead sustaining knife wounds to the face and neck together with Daw Nan Shan, 40, wife of Sai Kyauk and Daw Nan Li, 60, mother of Daw Nan Shan, who were also found dead with gunshot wounds.

A plot was made to set fire to the car as some hay was found beneath it.

A combined team comprising members of local police station combed the scene on 18 May morning and found a suspicious-looking plastic bag of black colour in the bush beside the road near the scene. And altogether 100,000 stimulant tablets weighing 10 kilograms were found in the bag.

The incident is assessed that Sai Kyauk was ambushed and murdered on the road over personal grudge.

Action is being taken in connection with the seizure of the drugs and other items by the police station concerned and measures are being taken for exposing the suspects who are involved in the incident. — MNA

New generation golf tournament on 26-27 May

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Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Psyi Some views round Mararbeit booth of Korean laminate floor at the Myanmar Tong Tak Trade Fair 2004 on 20 May. (s)
US troops raid Chalabi’s headquarters in Iraq

Baghdad, 21 May—US troops raided a house used by Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi and searched his party offices in Baghdad on Thursday, piling pressure on the former Pentagon favorite now increasingly shunned by Washington.

Squads of soldiers, backed by Iraqi police, sealed off the neighborhood around the headquarters of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) and a nearby house used by Chalabi for meeting officials, removing computers, files and other equipment.

INC spokesman Haider Moussawi said the troops also wanted to arrest two party members but were told by Chalabi they were not present. Chalabi, who returned from exile after the fall of Saddam Hussein as a potential future leader, was not detained.

“They have been putting political pressure on us for weeks. It’s part of an attempted character assassination and it’s politically motivated, but it won’t work,” Moussawi said.

“When someone stands up independently and puts his views firmly it appears the Americans don’t like it, it scares them.”

Moussawi said he did not know what the raid was related to, but called it a worrying development. “They think they can do whatever they want. They didn’t even have a warrant.”

US officials said on Tuesday the Pentagon had cut off some $340,000 a month in funding to Chalabi’s INC party, payments that were made in part for intelligence gathered by the INC.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said the decision “was made in light of the process of transferring sovereignty to the Iraqi people.”

“We felt it was no longer appropriate for us to continue funding in that fashion,” he told AFP.

“There’s been some very valuable intelligence that’s been gathered through that process that’s been very valuable for our forces. But we will seek to obtain that in the future through normal intelligence channels.” — Internet

Former Iraqi detainee in the Abu Ghraib prison, Saddam Saleh, 29 demonstrates with a banner reading “Where is the freedom” outside the heavily guarded ‘Green Zone’ in Baghdad, Iraq, on 19 May, 2004. — Internet

Iraq prisoner abuse seen as outcome of wrong US policy

London, 21 May—The images of torture by US forces of Iraqi prisoners and the worsening security situation were not short-term aberrations but the outcome of the wrong policy, London Mayor Ken Livingstone said in an article published by the British Guardian newspaper on Wednesday.

The core of what was happening was that without lawful international support, neither the international community nor the Iraqi population would regard US and British troops as a legitimate force, Livingstone said.

It was not clear what proportion of Iraqis sympathize with the current armed resistance to US and British forces, the mayor said. But the great majority of Iraqis were clearly not prepared to cooperate in giving information to an occupying force.

Without such intelligence, US and British forces were unable even to anticipate and prevent assaults on themselves, let alone defeat those staging them, he said.

When information was not forthcoming, the only way to try to get it was to beat it out of people, Livingstone argued. That was the logic that has led to the horrific scenes in Abu Ghraib prison. Hiding the torture would work and would make matters worse, the mayor added.

Claiming that the situation in Iraq was turning into something more unpleasant than anything since the war in Vietnam, Livingstone urged the coalition forces to withdraw their troops from Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua

Iranians demonstrate against US attacks on Iraqi holy cities

Teheran, 21 May—Thousands of Iranians poured into streets in Teheran on Wednesday to parade against the attacks on Iraqi Shiite holy cities by the US-led coalition forces, which the Parliament condemned. The parading groups shouted anti-US and anti-British slogans, as well as burning national flags of the United States, Britain and Israel and converging into Central Revo- lution Square of Teheran.

The Iranian authority and religious leaders have been calling for such demonstrations in Teheran and other parts of the country since the US-led coalition forces launched attacks on the Iraqi holy cities of Najaf and Karbala. Attacks on Iraqi holy cities have touched off a storm of condemnation among top Iranian officials. Student groups staged protest rallies in front of British Embassy in Teheran.

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

MNA/Xinhua

Italy to keep smog out of historic centres

Rome, 21 May—Italy’s Environment Ministry is spending 35 million euros on projects to reduce traffic and smog in the historic centres of the country’s cities, Italian media reported on Tuesday.

The ministry has agreed to help finance 77 schemes ranging from pollution monitors and no traffic zones to car-sharing and fleets of bookable buses.

The schemes are being set up in 21 cities, including Rome, Milan, Turin, Verona and Florence. After Genoa’s experiment last year with a toll to enter the city’s centre, seven other cities are now setting up similar systems.

A recent survey carried out among Italian local authorities found that traffic and smog are the most urgent problems faced by over 25 per cent of Italian towns and cities.

MNA/Xinhua

Chain of command failed at Iraq prison

Washington, 21 May—The top US military commanders in Iraq said yesterday that they never approved unlawful treatment of prisoners or ordered military intelligence units to take over detention operations at Abu Ghraib prison, but acknowledged that there was a systemic breakdown in command they said could lead to criminal charges against officers who oversaw the detainees.

Army General John Abizaid, head of the US Central Command, and Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, the senior commander in Iraq, took responsibility for the abuses that occurred on their watch in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, which was alerted yesterday that the Pentagon has recovered a computer disk containing additional photographs of prisoner abuses. Seven soldiers are facing criminal charges in the abuse. The first soldier to be tried, Specialist Jeremy C. Sivits, was sentenced to one year in prison yesterday by a court-martial in Baghdad. — Internet

Red Cross condemns US ‘excessive’ force in Iraq

Baghdad, 21 May—The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has condemned an “excessive” use of force by the US military, after reports accused troops of killing dozens of Iraqis at a wedding party.

“The excessive use of force violates international human rights,” the ICRC spokeswoman in Baghdad, Nada Duman, told AFP.

“Even if (you came under) fire, there are rules of proportion in retaliation and the absolute need to prevent civilian casualties,” she added.

Residents of the western desert town of Qaim on the Syrian border said US helicopters targeted the wedding party, apparently after people had fired in the air, a customary form of celebration in the Arab world.

The US military did not directly confirm or deny the incident, but said US forces raiding a suspected safe house for foreign fighters in the open desert near Syria called for “close air support” early Wednesday.

Aṣib satellite news channels and witnesses put the death toll at 40, a figure not disputed by the US military.

Meanwhile nine civilians were killed and 16 others wounded in the central Iraqi city of Karbala, a medic here said Thursday, while a guard at a Shiite shrine claimed coalition planes targeted militant compounds.

“During the night, nine dead civilians and 16 wounded, among them women and children, were brought in.” said Ali Aradawi, who heads the emergency room at the main hospital in Karbala. — Internet
Blair says any Iraq differences with US stay private

LONDON, 21 May—British Prime Minister Tony Blair told his ministers on bily air disagreements with Washington over policy in Iraq for fear it would damage troop morale.

The government has repeatedly denied that London is irked by US policy but Blair’s main political opponent said the prime minister often voiced disquiet in private and urged him to bring the debate into the open.

Blair’s message, delivered to a cabinet meeting, was echoed by Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon and follows calls from members of the ruling Labour Party for Blair to distance himself from President Bush.

Blair, Straw and Hoon “underlined the negative impact they thought any show of disagreement (with the US) would have on morale,” Blair’s spokesman said of the cabinet meeting.

Labour parliamentarians are anxious the government’s battered image is being tarnished further by Blair’s proximity to Bush over Iraq because of the abuse revelations and what many see as America’s heavy-handed military tactics on the ground.

Britain’s former envoy to Iraq, Jeremy Greenstock, suggested on Thursday that British officials did air grievances over Iraq policy with America, but preferred to do so in private.

“We do not have our arguments in public with the United States because a lot of detail is confidential...we go through it all in immense detail and that has to be done in private but we do make our views known,” Greenstock told BBC Radio.

Pentagon finds more prison abuse photos

WASHINGTON, 21 May — Another disc with 24 photographs depicting “apparent abusive acts by US forces” has surfaced in the investigation of mistreatment of Iraqi detainees at a US-run prison near Baghdad, the Pentagon said on Wednesday.

Thirteen of the photographs appeared to be images already seen in the international media, but 11 have not been identified in previous investigations, according to a Pentagon letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“They may not be original or true photographs,” Powell Moore, assistant defence secretary for legislative affairs, wrote in the letter.

He said they were given to the Criminal Investigation Command in Baghdad “under circumstances that warranted investigation, including forensic computer evaluation.”

Moore said the committee would be told the results of the examination as they become available.

US soldier killed, three wounded in Baghdad attack

BLOOMBERG, 21 May — A U.S. soldier was killed and three were wounded early today in a hand-grenade attack on their unit in the centre of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, the military said in an e-mailed statement. The statement gave no further details of the attack.

As of yesterday, 466 members of the US military had been killed in action in Iraq since President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations on May 1, 2003, according to the Department of Defence figures. One hundred and eighty-two have been killed in action since the beginning of April.

Filipino workers back home from Iraq for fear of unrest

MANILA, 21 May — The Philippine authorities Thursday repatriated 32 more Filipino workers back home from Iraq due to the escalating violence against foreigners working with the United States-led coalition forces in the war-torn country.

A total of 57 “distressed, but healthy” Filipino workers have now been back in the Philippines since the government announced the setting up of evacuation centres in Iraq, the labor department’s Overseas Workers Welfare Administra- tion said.

“We wish to ensure the families of our Filipino nationals contracted in Iraq that first and foremost of our concern is their safety,” welfare administration chief Virgilio Angelo said in a statement.

More Filipinos will be back from Iraq in the coming days as the government agency is coordinating with the Philippine embassy in Kuwait for the repatriation, he added.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the indefinite suspension of the deployment of Filipino military personnel in Iraq.

Moore, assistant defence secretary for legislative affairs, wrote in the letter.

US soldiers secure the area around the palace where the court martial is taking place in the holy city of Najaf, on 19 May, 2004. — INTERNET

300 Philippine families evacuated for wrong volcanic eruption warning

MANILA, 21 May — Some 300 families in the southern Philippines were evacuated after they received text messages warning of a volcanic eruption, which has been officially confirmed wrong, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported Wednesday.

The report quoted a regional official of the Civil Defence Office in Nabunturan Town, Davao Province, Antonio Cloma, as saying that even they received the text message on Monday claiming a “volcano in Nabunturan will erupt this 3 pm.”

Cloma said that the text messages aroused panic among the residents of several towns near the volcano, who fled home for shelter in Nabunturan gym.

However, when the deadline passed and no eruptions took place, another text message was circulated claiming that the volcano would erupt anytime at the night, he said.

Cloma also said “even at 1 o’clock in the morning some of the families were still evacuating” although the local government officials and experts from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) proceeded to the gym to convince people of no volcanic eruption.

Feodil Taglocop, analyst of the Phivolcs, told the PNA that the volcano in question is just a mud mound, a natural geological formation formed from the emission of carbon and other chemicals. “There’s no volcano in Nabunturan.”

A strongly felt earthquake on Sunday had led the residents to think that there was a volcano in Nabunturan, which was the epicentre of the quake, Taglocop said.

That earthquake is tonic in origin. There’s no volcanic activity,” he added.

With 21 May — A Spanish security patrol has come under fire from Iraqi guerrillas after it accompanied US troops by May 27.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has vowed to pull out his country’s remaining troops from south-central Iraq, allowing Madrid’s forces to prepare their withdrawal from the war-torn country.

Spanish forces still at the base in Diwaniya will concentrate on preparing their withdrawal, the Defence Ministry said in a statement, leaving US troops to carry out patrols.

Spanish troops attacked in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 May — Spanish forces still at the base in south-central Iraq, allowing Madrid’s forces to prepare their withdrawal from the war-torn country.

One soldier was injured and two were wounded in a grenade attack on their unit in the centre of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, the military said in an e-mailed statement. The statement gave no further details of the attack.

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Italy, Poland call for real power for Iraqs

WASHINGTON, 21 May — Italy and Poland, staunch US allies over Iraq and major troop contributors, urged Washington on Tuesday to give Iraqis real power over the running of their country after the planned US handover on June 30.

US Army says kills around 40 in Iraq attack

BAGHDAD, 21 May — The US Army said on Thursday it killed around 40 people in an attack on suspected foreign fighters in Iraq near the Syrian border, but disputed reports that the victims were members of a wedding party.

Pakistan to continue dialogue with India

Islamabad, 21 May — Pakistan Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamal on Wednesday categorically said that Pakistan would carry on with dialogue with India.

No respite seen for US forces after power transfer

LONDON, 21 May — Iraq’s deadly complexities will bedevil US-led forces in the country they have so far failed to pacify, whatever interim government takes over after 30 June.

British protesters taunt Bush senior with torture hoods

LONDON, 21 May — British protesters wearing black hoods like those worn by Iraqi victims of abuse by US soldiers demonstrated against former US President George Bush at a fundraising event for his son’s re-election campaign on Tuesday.

US troops detain Iraqi cameraman

BAGHDAD, 21 May — US forces detained an Iraqi cameraman for Dubai-based Al Arabiya television in Baghdad on Thursday, the network reported. The cameraman, Hussein Karim, was detained while filming in the al-Bay’a district of the capital, said Dayer al-Omary, a reporter for Al-Arabiya.

Karim was detained in an area that US soldiers were sealing off after getting reports that a car was on fire. The US military had no immediate comment. — Internet

No respite seen for US forces after power transfer

LONDON, 21 May — Iraq’s deadly complexities will bedevil US-led forces in the country they have so far failed to pacify, whatever interim government takes over after 30 June.

General John Abizaid, head of US Central Command, said on Wednesday that the post-handover period could become even more violent, perhaps requiring the deployment of more US troops.

Analysts said the new government, whose composition and powers are still uncertain, will struggle for legitimacy, even if it gains the formal blessing of the United Nations.

Buffeted by Iraqi insurgency and shamed by the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal, Washington’s aim to turn postwar Iraq into a pro-American democratic model for the region looks beyond reach. Militants will relentlessly challenge any bid to portray the June 30 transfer as a real end to US occupation.

“US troops will still be there, with a job to do, but must represent themselves as a background force, not an occupation force, and present the Iraqi police and civil defense forces as frontline forces” said British security analyst Simon Henderson.

“On a quiet day, this is a fiction that can just about work, but there have not been many quiet days recently and one fears there won’t be many in future,” he said.

Washington, which insists its fledgling armed forces stay under US command after the handover, might pressure its troops to remain “over the horizon”, holding the ring and ensuring that no one seizes power or undermines the government by force. — MNA/Reuters
EU condemns Iraq abuse as US scandal grows

Brussels, 21 May— European Union foreign ministers condemned abuses against Iraqi prisoners on Monday, branding the actions a breach of international law.

They also deployed the assassination of a Kuwaiti man by a bomb in a Baghdad hotel on Sunday, which is the latest in a series of such attacks in Iraq.

Sheikh Adel, the head of the阳光光报, said that the attack demonstrated the need to act quickly to prevent further violence. He added that a rapid and decisive response was required to prevent the situation from worsening.

The attack came just hours after a bloody fighting in a Baghdad market in which at least 15 people were killed and dozens more were wounded.

A US Army soldier arrives at the scene of a burning pipeline near Baghdad.

**Russia calls for reconsidering Iraqi settlement model**

Moscow, 21 May— Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov called for a reassessment of the Iraqi settlement model, which is seen by some as a way to resolve the conflict in Iraq.

The settlement model, introduced in 2003, involves a mix of federal and decentralized governance, with the goal of building a stable and democratic Iraq.

Lavrov said that the model had not achieved its goals and that a new approach was needed.

Thailand considers to withdraw troops from Iraq

Bangkok, 21 May— The Thai Government decided to withdraw its troops stationed in Iraq after the authority transition scheduled on June 30, Defence Minister Chetta Thanajara said on Tuesday.

The withdrawal of the entire Thai force from Iraq would be “seriously considered” after June 30 authority handover, despite the original plan for the Thai troops to stay there until the end of September. Chetta was quoted by the state-run Thai News Agency as saying.

Meanwhile, the defence minister insisted on an earlier decision of the government that the troops can decide by themselves whether to pull out of Iraq if they are under attack or in dangerous situation.

There are now some 451 Thai soldiers in the southern Iraqi city of Karbala. The soldiers, the second batch of Thai troops there, were composed of medical personnel, engineers and mechanic and implemented only humanitarian mission there.

Chetta said he had learned from the head of the Thai force in Karbala that the situation there was normal and no Thai troops have been put in harm’s way in the line of their duties.

US troops “Reuters” local staff in Iraq

London, 21 May— The Reuters news agency said on Tuesday that three of its local staff in Iraq were allegedly subjected to sexually degrading treatment after being detained in January.

It was unveiling the ordeal of its employees after the US military had concluded there was no evidence that the Reuters staff had been tortured or abused, the news agency said. The Reuters employees were allegedly abused at two US military bases, after being detained for covering the shooting down of a US helicopter near the flashpoint city of Fallujah.

Earlier reports said Baghdad-based cameraman Salem Ureibi, Fallujah-based freelance TV journalist Ahmed Mohammad Hussein al-Badrani and driver Sattar Jabar al- Badrani were held for three days before being released without charge.

The three detainees were quoted by the Reuters as saying that they were forced to make degrading gestures as soldiers laughed, taunted them and took photographs.

Among other things, they were allegedly deprived of sleep, had bags placed over their heads, were kicked and hit and forced to remain in stress positions for long periods.

The Reuters report came in the wake of the scandal involving the mistreatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib Prison near Baghdad.

Russia accuses US of blocking visits of overseas Cubans

Havana, 21 May — Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque accused the US Government Tuesday of hampering overseas Cubans’ visits to Cuba and using the migration issue as a weapon against the island country.

He said at a press conference that the brutal measures announced by Washington earlier this month against Cuba directly affect Cubans who live in the United States.

On 6 May, Washington announced new measures to tighten Cuba’s economy. Under new rules, 59 million US dollars will be allocated to fund anti-Cuba activities for a period of two years; cash remittances from Cuban Americans will be halved and limits will be imposed on family visits between the United States and Cuba.

These measures showed that US President George W. Bush’s Government that prevented overseas Cubans from visiting and helping their families in the island, said Perez Roque.

A US Army soldier arrives at the scene of a burning pipeline at the al-Rashedah district, outside Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 May, 2004. The cause of the fire is unknown.
Clariﬁcations on detailed …

(See page 8)

(See page 8)
Thus, if any one of the provisions stipulated in a law enacted by the leading body of a self-administered division or a self-administered zone is in contrast with any one of the stipulations contained in a law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, observance of the law must be in accord with the stipulations contained in the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Furthermore, the State machinery will continue to run smoothly only if the current existing laws continue to be in force after the adoption of a new constitution, until they are revoked or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and unless they are in contradiction with the new Constitution.

A noted lawyer presented the matter to enable delegates to discuss and give suggestion on whether detailed basic principles concerning the following five factors are to be laid down or not:

1. If any one of the provisions stipulated in a law enacted by the leading body of a self-administered division or a self-administered zone is in contrast with any one of the stipulations contained in a law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw or state Hluttaw, adherence to the law must be in accord with the stipulations contained in the law enacted by the region Hluttaw or state Hluttaw.

2. If any one of the provisions stipulated in a law enacted by the leading body of a self-administered division or a self-administered zone is in contrast with any one of the stipulations contained in a law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, observance of the law must be in accord with the stipulations contained in the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

3. If any one of the provisions stipulated in a law enacted by a region Hluttaw or a state Hluttaw is in contrast with any one of the stipulations contained in a law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, observance of the law must be in accord with the stipulations contained in the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

4. If any one of the provisions stipulated in a law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw or a region Hluttaw or a state Hluttaw or a self-administered division or a self-administered zone or any one of the stipulations contained in the Constitution, observance of the law must be in accord with the stipulations contained in the Constitution.

5. The existing laws are still in force until they are revoked or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and unless they are in contradiction with the Constitution.

Clarifications of National Convention Convening Work Committee Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and National Convention Convening Work Committee Secretary U Thaung Nyunt

Respected Chairman,

I will now explain the matters relating to the formation of Financial Commission, Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions and States and financial rights and authority among the Union, regions and states.

Respected Chairman,

The nation usually employs ways and means that are in conformity with the economy, social conditions, culture and customs, for taxation and use of revenue.

Respected Chairman,

In Myanmar Naing-Nang, tax has been collected since the time of Myanmar kings. In connection with tax collection, it was stated in the Governance of Myanmar and Rajarath or the edict of King Bodaw Phaya, and the following is a rough translation:

"A neighbouring country may intrude into and destroy another in order to loot the latter’s riches to make itself rich and prosperous. In one’s country itself, rogues and robbers may attack others and steal the property of others. In such a disquiet state, no merchants can do business in peace, nor can soldiers do their duties.

There should be officers, assistants, attendants and guards in order to keep trade, commerce and day-to-day business undisturbed. The king, ministers, warriors and soldiers along with the officers, attendants and guards defend the nation and keep order. Having to do so, they have no time to do business or work the land. Hence, tax in the form of paddy, rice or money is to be collected from the merchants and farmers to provide sufficient supply of food for them, to acquire arms and ammunition, to establish human settlements, and to store supplies to get ready in times of war. That is called thehamaeda tax or tithe."

Respected Chairman,

After invading and occupying Myanmar, the colonialists enacted laws and issued orders at will to collect taxes from the people. It is also found that they promulgated laws to extract the natural riches of Myanmar and exploited the country in their own interest.

The nation, after regaining independence, adopted and practised the provisions stated in the Constitution stipulated that "the list of the types of the revenues are permitted to collect, and the states coordinated with the Union Government concerning the issue of financial deficit or surplus in their budgets. In the 1974 Constitution, a common fund for the whole Union was set up, and the central allotted appropriate funds for the states and divisions."

The previous Hluttaw formed a Financial Commission in accord with the stipulations to do their job. When the constitutions of former colonies are studied, it is found that the state governments are permitted to collect the prescribed taxes, and the central government is providing financial assistance to correct their deficits; and that financial commissions are formed to make detailed scrutinization and ap praisal concerning the allotment and provision of funds and borrowing of loans for state governments by the central government.

Respected Chairman,

According to detailed basic principles laid down by the National Convention, seven regions, seven states and the Union territories will emerge in the Union of Myanmar. In addition, there will be the Union Government, the region government and the state government, and ways and means that are incompatible to the changes should be laid down and practiced in sharing financial rights and authority with the governments.

Fair and appropriate means should be practised in sharing financial rights and authority among the Union Government, the region government and the state government for the progress of the whole nation.

Respected Chairman,

At present, there are being made with might and main to swiftly transform from manual farming to mechanized farming in the Union of Myanmar. It is a common knowledge for delegates that the State, on its part, is building necessary dams, irrigation networks in the whole nation, and is achieving success in the endeavour. It is also laying down plans to systematically utilize and conserve the nation’s rich natural resources, including forests and minerals.

We will be able to maintain the momentum of national development and modernization drive in the future also, if the Union builds infrastructures, that are specially needed for the nation, as necessary.

It is also required to entrust a fair degree of financial rights and authority to the Pyidaungsu to enable it to raise enough revenues to build infrastructures for the nation and to systematically develop the whole nation and improve the food, clothing and shelter condition of the entire people.

The delegates have witnessed the unprecedented national re-consolidation achieved in the country. Provisions concerning appropriate and fair distribution and use of financial rights and authority be tween the Pyidaungsu and the regions or states should be stipulated in the future constitution. Financial rights and authority include taxation and financial expenditure and that will contribute to perpetuation of nation alunity. The National Convention should lay down detailed principles.

Respected Chairman,

Roughly, the State financial budgets of the previous years show that in most of the states and divisions, their financial revenue was large than their financial expenses. The State by providing funds to correct their deficits is ensuring fair use of the revenues collected in the whole country.

In the future also, the revenues collected by the Pyidaungsu will be used for the whole Union in cluding regions and states. Taxes permitted to be collected by the regions or states will be used in them. The following list shows the types of taxes that should be collected by the regions or states:

(a) Land tax
(b) Excise tax
(c) Water taxes and dam taxes based on dams and reservoirs managed by the regions or states, and fees for electricity generated by hydro power of the dams and reservoirs.
(d) Toll fees from roads and bridges managed by the regions or states
(e) 1. Royalty on fresh water fishing industry
   2. Royalty on sea fishing within the limited distance
(f) Taxes collected in accord with the law concerning vehicles and vessels in regions or states
(g) Proceeds, rents or profits from property owned by regions or states
(h) Fees, taxes and other revenues fixed by regions or states for service enterprises
(i) Fines imposed by law courts in regions or states including the Region Hluttaw or the State Hluttaw, taxes on services and other revenues
(j) Interest from loans disbursed from the region or state funds
(k) Profits and benefits from investments of regions or states
(l) Taxes on extraction of the following forest products from the forests in the regions or states:
   (1) Taxes on timber except teak and other designated hardwoods
   (2) Taxes on fire wood, charcoal, rattan, bamboo, birdnest, cutch, thanakhat, turpentine, eaglwood and honey products
(m) Additional fees
(n) Taxes on entertainments
(o) Salt tax
(p) Funds received from Union Fund Account for investments in the development affairs bodies to be distributed to regions or states
(q) Unclaimed cash or property
(r) Treasure trove

Respected Chairman,

I have already explained the types of taxes to be contributed to the region or state funds. Of them, I will give a brief account of the revenues that are needed to be collected for the regions or states.

Land revenues of the regions or states cover all other agricultural land owned by the State including cultivation land, farm land, taungya (slash-and-burn cultivation) farms, seasonal cultivation land, and gardens and plantations, except from those used for enterprises under the direct management of the State.
Clarifications on detailed ... (from page 8)

The term “excise” is a general word for taxes on all forms of alcoholic liquors and intoxicating drugs permitted in accordance with the law, it comprises taxes on all forms of alcoholic liquors, alcohol and substances inclusive in the intoxicating drugs and matters that are carried out in accord with Narcotic, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Recommended Chairman.
At present, toll fees from bridges and dams built by the State are being collected by the respective departments in accord with the law. After the adoption of a new Constitution, there will also be dams, reservoirs and hydroelectric power stations under the direct management of Pyidaungsu as well as dams, reservoirs and hydroelectric power stations that are under the management of the regions or states.

The regions or states should be allowed to collect and use the revenues on water and dams based on dams and reservoirs under their management and control, and fees on electricity generated by hydro power of the dams. Thus, the matter concerning “water taxes and dam taxes based on dams and reservoirs managed by the regions or states, and fees for electricity generated by hydro power of the dams and reservoirs” is stated in the list of taxes permitted to be collected by the regions or states.

Respected Chairman.
The State has built roads and bridges at its own expense, and the respective departments are collecting the toll fees for using the facilities. When the Constitution comes into force, there will be Union highways and bridges supervised by the Pyidaungsu as well as roads and bridges that will be permitted to be managed and maintained by the regions or states. As the respective regions or states are permitted to collect and use the toll fees on roads and bridges permitted by them, he wording “toll fees on roads and bridges that are permitted to be managed and maintained by the respective regions or states” is stated in the list.

Respected Chairman.
Royalties on fresh water fisheries in the regions or states will be received by the respective regions or states. Some of the regions or states are lying contiguous to the sea and have the areas where fishing is being engaged by living in sea fishing. To enable them to earn their living, the area of sea surface, where fishing rights have been permitted, should be designated by the law. The regions or states are permitted to collect and use the royalties on fishing within the limited sea area “Royalty on fresh water fishing industry; and Royalty on sea fishing within the limited distance” is stated in the list of taxes permitted to be collected by the regions or states.

Respected Chairman.
Concerning transportation, the volume of the transport activities in the regions or states is growing together with the rate of national development. The private sector has a large number of motorized vessels transporting passengers and goods on rivers, creeks and lakes, and the regions or states are utilizing these vehicles in the road transport sector. It is re quired to control and supervise the vessels and vehicles and to collect tolls on them. As the regions or states are permitted to collect and use tolls on the vessels and vehicles, the list states “Taxes collected in accord with the law concerning vehicles and vessels in regions or states”.

Respected Chairman.
Concerning forests, some of the forest reserves are located straddling the borders of regions or states. Thus, the borders of some forest reserves are not in conformity with the borders of the regions or states. Due to naturallocation and situation of forests, the tasks of conservation and prevention of forest depletion, systematic extraction of timber, reforestation of depleted forests, and planteion of forest, water and natural environment will develop and achieve success only if it is systematically carried out in the whole Union.

Taxes on hardwoods other than teak and designated timbers (other than teak) are to be paid to the Pyidaungsu. The Pyidaungsu has already explained in the list “Registration fees” is included in the list. As matters regarding other taxes are obvious, they will not be clarified.

Respected Chairman.
One of the State objectives is, “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the Union”. In accord with this objective, we will have to strive for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well to catch up with other countries in terms of economy. Equitable progress will be achieved in the whole Union only if the regions or states implement tasks that are within their capacity, and the Pyidaungsu has already explained “Registering of Pyidaungsu”.

Regions or states will need funds to develop themselves. Concerning the matter, I have already explained types of revenues and taxes to be collected by the regions or states to receive funds for the endeavours. If their revenues are not enough for their development and undertakings, the Pyidaungsu funds will provide there required funds. And if funds provided by the Pyidaungsu is not enough, the regions or states will be provided to them as a special case after checking the State budget.

Moreover, if the regions or states need funds to implement small projects in them, they can borrow loans after coordinating with the Pyidaungsu.

Respected Chairman.
It is needed for the regions or states to set up funds for their development endeavours. So also, the Pyidaungsu also needs funds to implement major development projects and tasks and providing funds to regions or states, and financial assistance and loans to them for progress of the whole Union. Thus, taxes that should be collected by the regions or states will be designated, and the Pyidaungsu should collect the rest.

Respected Chairman.
I will now explain the taxes to be collected and received by the Pyidaungsu.

According to the detailed basic principles already laid down, if an area is designated as Union territory, it will be under direct administration of the President of the Union of Myanmar and not under the administration of Regional or State Concerned concerning its special situation.

As Union territories will be under direct administration of the President, if it becomes necessary for them to collect and use the taxes and revenues collected by them or states within the designated area, the Pyidaungsu will have to collect the revenues and and contribute to the Union Fund Account.

Respected Chairman.
Now, I have already explained the matters relating to the list of taxes that should be collected by the Pyidaungsu and the regions or states. Taxes and revenues, collected by the Pyidaungsu for proportionate development of the whole Union, are to be used in accord with the law. If their revenues are not enough for their development, the Pyidaungsu will have to use the Pyidaungsu funds to make the budget. The Pyidaungsu will have to use the Pyidaungsu funds to make the budget because in the case of the regions or states, there will be a Pyidaungsu budget to bear the expenditure of the Pyidaungsu. The budget will include taxes, collected by the regions or states, and revenue collected by the Pyidaungsu. The Pyidaungsu will have to use the Pyidaungsu funds, which will be used for paying the Pyidaungsu budget, and the Pyidaungsu funds will have to be used for paying the Pyidaungsu budget.

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**To Convention Delegates**

- Brethren build a new home
- Trying to see it materialize
- Pretty with different rooms
- None of them is going to live in it
- People from elsewhere
- None of them is going to live in it
- Although they come in and disturb
- 
- "Brethren, pool your thoughts and bravely build as designed."

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**Clarifications on detailed ...**

(from page 9)

following persons:

1. The President
2. The Vice-Presidents
3. The Pyidaungsu Attorney-General
4. The Pyidaungsu Auditor-General
5. The Chief Ministers of Regions and States
6. The Yangon City Council Chairman
7. The Pyidaungsu Minister for Finance
8. The Chief Ministers of Regions or States
9. The Yangon City Council Chairman
10. The Yangon City Council Chairman

(d) (1) When forming the Financial Commission, the President of the State has the right to appoint a suitable person as a member on a temporary basis if the post of member remains vacant for a certain reason.

(2) The President of the State is to announce the formation of the Financial Commission. However, orders and directives necessary for the Financial Commission can be announced by either the President of the State or the person to whom duties are assigned by the President of the State.

(e) To submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw the draft of Union budget containing the budget draft, the distribution of appropriate funds from Union Fund Account to regions or states, the provision of funds as a special case and disbursing of necessary loans, the Financial Commission is to submit them to the President of the State.

(f) The Financial Commission, if need be, may seek advice from finance experts.

(g) On behalf of the Union Government, the President of the State or the person to whom duties are assigned by the President of the State is to submit the draft of the Union budget to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(b) (1) Salary and allowance of heads and members of organizations set up according to the Constitution of the State and expenditures of those organizations at Union level;

(2) Salary and allowance of heads and members of leading bodies of self-administered area set up according to the Constitution of the State and expenditures of those bodies;

(3) Debts the region or state has to settle, expenditures related to those debts, and other expenditures related to money borrowed by the region or state;

(4) Expenditures to be paid according to verdict or order or decree released by the court or a particular tribunal;

(5) Other expenditures to be paid according to a particular existing law enacted by Region or State Hluttaw, for which discussions can be held at the Region or State Hluttaw. However, rejection and deduction are not allowed.

(n) Taxes to be collected according to the law of the region or state and to be put in the Region or State Fund Account are as follows:

1. Land tax,
2. Excise,
3. Water tax, embankment tax of dams and embankments the region or state has the right to manage, and tax on the use of electricity produced by such facilities managed by the region or state,
4. Tolls from roads and bridges the region or state has the right to manage,
5. (aa) Royalty collected from fresh water fisheries, (bb) Royalty collected from marine fisheries located in limited distance,
6. Tax collected according to vehicles and vessels law of the region or state,
7. Other benefits and profits reaped from the sale and rent of property owned by the region or state,
8. Charges, taxes and other incomes realized from services provided by the region or state,
9. Fines imposed at Region or State Judicial Hluttaw, including Region or State courts, taxes and other incomes collected for services provided,
10. Interests realized from the lending of money of the region or state funds,
11. Profits realized from investment made by the region or state,
12. Taxes collected on firewood, charcoal, rattan, bamboo, birdnest, cutch, thanakha, turpentine, eaglewolf, and honey-based products,
13. Registration fees,
14. Taxes on entertainments,
15. Salt tax,
16. Funds received from the Union Fund Account,
17. Contributions by organizations relevant to development affairs in the region or state,
18. Unclaimed cash and property,
19. Treasure trove,
20. The region or state has the right to use their funds in accord with the law.

(p) Except the taxes to be collected by the region or state, the Union is to collect all other taxes according to law and put them in the Union Fund Account.

(q) On condition that incomes and types of taxes to be collected by the region or state are to be gathered by the regions or states, the Union is to collect them according to law and put them in the Union Fund Account.

(r) The Union has the right to use the Union Fund Account in accord with the law.

Respected Chairman,

I have now dealt with the detailed basic principles relevant to finance in addition to the formation of the Financial Commission as well as the detailed basic principles that should be adopted for the list of taxes that should be collected by the Union and the regions or states and the distribution of funds. Therefore, the delegates to the National Convention are to give suggestions as to whether the detailed basic principles relevant to financial matters should be laid down or not—MNA

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**Our brethren join hands together for the Union.**

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**Delegates seen attending the National Convention.**

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**Delegates sign attendance at the National Convention.**

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**Delegates arrive at the National Convention.**

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**Delegates arrive at the National Convention.**

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects use of heavy machine in digging Thakkala-Ohnhne section of Bagan-Nyanyungh-Ohnhne-Thakkala-Kayanchaung canal.

Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko reported on emergence of 10,000 acres of cultivable lands thanks to irrigation facilities of Moeyungyi Lake and arrangements for reclaiming cultivatable lands in Pyuntaza Plain.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt instructed them to coordinate supply of water and extended cultivation tasks for regional development. Afterwards, the Prime Minister inspected digging of Thakkala-Ohnhne section of Bagan-Nyanyungh-Ohnhne-Thakkala-Kayanchaung canal.

On arrival at Basic Education Middle School in Thakkala Village, the Prime Minister met with township authorities, departmental officials and local people. He heard reports on matters related to Kawa Township.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fulfilled the requirements and made a speech. He said that they were there to fulfill the requirements for socio-economic development of rural people and inspect measures taken for water availability for cultivation of summer paddy and cold season crops in Kawa, Kayan, Thongwa and Kyunkhan Townships, Yangon South District and for cultivation of paddy and other crops in 30-mile radius of Yangon City all year round. The Government is fulfilling the basic requirements for development of education, health, economic, social and transport sectors of rural regions. Local people will be able to engage in extended cultivation of summer paddy on completion of irrigation works and bridges. Afterwards, Deputy Secretary General Kav Kyaw San reported on development of irrigation facilities of Moeyungyi Lake and arrangements for laying down and implementing projects for development of the whole nation. In the past, Kawa, Kayan, Thongwa and Kyunkhan Townships cultivated monsoon paddy and winter crops, but they could not grow crops in summer due to lack of water. After laying down the project to green the areas in the 30-mile radius of Yangon, irrigation facilities have been built. Irrigation projects have been laid down and implemented in the arid zones of the nation to cultivate crops. The Government has been making efforts for improvement of the living standard of the people and development of the economy. Thus, departmental personnel will have to play a leading role in giving close supervision on the development undertakings with goodwill. The people on their part will also have to make efforts to effectively use the facilities for their benefit and regional development.

The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to Thonlawka Bhutkhao Manzang Yadana Pagoda in Tada and also paid respects to Sayawd Bhuddanta Vannamasi of Ywale Monastery.

At Mingalan Model village, they visited pagodas and paid homage to the Buddha images. They also visited monasteries and presented offerings to Sayawds. At his meeting with local authorities and local people, the Prime Minister attended to needs for regional development. He presented a TV and a video to Mingaladaw Basic Education High School. At Khanaung Model village, he heard a report on the number of households, population, agriculture, health and education of the village. He presented a TV and video to the village high school. At Kayan Sluice Gate Project in Thanlyin Township, he heard a report on its salient points and progress in implementing it. With its 40 six-feet by 16-feet vaults, the sluice gate will benefit 30,000 acres. The Prime Minister spoke of the need to strive for earlier completion of the facility. He then inspected the project. They arrived back Yangon in the evening.

Plenary Session of National Convention ...

Kayinni National Progressive Party (KNPP), Nplinr, Hoyai, Kayinni National Unity and Solidarity Organization (Ka Ma Sa Nya), Shan National Union and Salvation Organisation’s Liberation Organization (Ya La La Ph), New Mon State Party, Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association (DKBA), Haungthayaw Special Region Group, Phayagon Special Region Group, Shan State National Army, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine Group), Homsein Region Welfare and Development Group, Shwepyiay (MTA) Group, Monpana Regional Mining Group, Mon Armed Peace Group (Chaungchi Region), Mon Splinter Sai Saik Chan Group and Arakanese Army (AA) who exchanged arms for peace.

Before the plenary session of the National Convention, the delegates signed in the attendance registers. The Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission chaired the National Convention Plenary Session and Secretary of the NCC Commission for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsin acted as master of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as there were 1,073 out of 1,088 listed accounting for 98.62 per cent.

The Work Committee clarified matters related to the detailed basic principles for the delegation of legislative, administrative and judicial powers that are to be included in framing the State Constitution.

Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe clarified the administration of justice sector; Work Committee member Chairman of the Civil Services Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun, on legislative power of self-administered area leading bodies, delegation of administrative power in connection with matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies.

Legislative powers of Union territories, taking effect of laws enacted by different levels of Hluttaw and self-administered area leading bodies; Work Committee Vice-Chairman Deputy Attorney-General U Aye Maung, on the first part of matters concerning the detailed basic principles for the formation of Financial Commission, Taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States in drafting the State Constitution.

The Plenary Session went into recess. The sector-wise clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee is reported separately.

NC delegates entertained with films

Yaziek, 21 May — The entertainment and welfare subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is entertaining the delegates to the National Convention with Mawgun news films and entertainment winning films at the gymnasium in NyaungOo Hpaing in Hmawby Township for their rest and recreation.

Pan-taaw-plane-hn-in-gyin’ starring Lwin Moe, La M Mi, Htet Moe Oo and Hla Inzat Tin was shown tonight and ‘Hsan-ye’ starring Lwin Moe, Nyunt Win, Waing, Khine Hnin Wai, Myint Myint Khine and San Aye last night. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 22 May, 2004 11
Oslo wants more whaling to boost fish stocks

Oslo, 21 May — Norway’s Parliament called on Tuesday for a three-fold increase in whale hunting quotas in a move it said would protect stocks of cod and other fish eaten by the giant mammals. Norway, along with Japan and Iceland, harpoons whales despite the International Whaling Commission (IWC) declaring a moratorium nearly two decades ago.

“We want to increase quotas,” Fisheries Minister Svenn Lodvigsen told Parliament, which unanimously passed a non-binding resolution urging Oslo to raise minke whale catches “considerably” as soon as possible.

Whalers rejoiced at the prospect that annual quotas might rise to the 1960s-70s average of 1,800 minke whales from 670 in 2004. But the WWF environment group denounced the plans, saying that Norway was blaming whales for its own over-fishing. — MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (075)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (075) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.T.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm until Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Angola gets $455m in foreign investment

Luanda, 21 May — Angola, an oil-rich African country, received 455 million US dollars’ worth of proposed direct foreign investment during the first quarter of the year.

Local media on Tuesday quoted president of the Angolan National Institute of Private Investment (ANIP) Carlos Fernandes as saying the country was looking for “large scale foreign investment” to develop its postwar economy.

Fernandes emphasized the country’s special interest in foreign investment in its transport, telecommunications, and mining sectors. But he did not describe in detail the investment proposals received by ANIP during the first quarter nor say how many had been approved by the Angolan Government. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese sailors in Uruguay out of ammonia danger

Montevideo, 21 May — Twenty-one Chinese sailors treated for ammonia poisoning in Uruguay are now out of life-threatening condition, but one crew member remains missing, the Chinese ambassador to Uruguay told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The seamen inhaled toxic gas after a nearby South Korean fishing boat exploded on Monday in the port of Montevideo, due to ammonia leakage. The gas was used by a refrigerant aboard as coolant.

Five sailors have recovered after medical treatment. The others remain hospitalized, four of whom are in critical condition, Ambassador Wang Yongzhan said.

World “IT” Conference opens in Athens

Athens, 21 May — The 14th World IT Conference opened on Wednesday in Athens, where 2000 delegates from all over the world will discuss the rapid developments in new technologies during three days of working sessions.

Greece’s Transport and Communications Minister Michalis Liapis spoke of a “real revolution” in the technologies sector, noting that telecommunications were shaping other forms of activities, such as health and education services, the information society, and even democracy. — MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

MNA/Xinhua
China, Ethiopia sign MoU in water development

ADISE ABADA, 21 May—China and Ethiopia signed a memorandum of understanding here enabling the two countries to cooperate in water resource development.

The memorandum, signed by visiting Chinese Water Resources Minister Wang Shucheng and Ethiopian Minister for Water Resources Development Shiferaw Jasso, is to expand the existing Sino-Ethiopian cooperation in water resources management and sustainable development of water resources and establish a long-term cooperative relationship on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

In line with the memorandum, China will provide various support including capacity building in the areas of rural water supply, irrigation development and hydro-power generation.

On Monday, during the talks with the Chinese Minister, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi expressed Ethiopia’s willingness to further consolidate its cooperation with China in the area of water development.

Meles said that strengthening water development cooperation between the two countries would help Ethiopia draw important lessons from China.

And the Chinese minister assured that China would extend support to Ethiopia in the areas of water resources management, capacity building, technological transfer and training of manpower.

The Chinese delegation arrived here Saturday for a five-day official visit to Ethiopia. — MNA/Xinhua

Women more likely than men to succeed as entrepreneurs in China

BEIJING, 21 May—Women are more likely to be successful than men in running enterprises, shows a recent survey by the China Investigation System of Entrepreneurs.

With the great changes in social, economic, political and family status in China, a new stratum of female entrepreneurs have come into being, says the survey conducted by Monday’s Workers’ Daily.

According to the survey, China had 19.59 million female enterprise owners and legal representatives. Some 89 percent of the female entrepreneurs are engaged in processing, manufacturing and service industries and merely 1.5 percent of the enterprises are non-profit.

Only 30 percent of the female entrepreneurs have got loans from the banks and 45 percent of them rely on personal savings, families and friends for investment.

The economic performance of enterprises run by women is better than those run by men and the income of female entrepreneurs is a little higher than male entrepreneurs, the survey shows.

Female entrepreneurs, an average 46.5 years old, are more confident than male entrepreneurs. They are also more satisfied with their economic, social and political status than male entrepreneurs, according to the survey.

The percentage of female entrepreneurs with an annual income below 2,418 US dollars is 6.9 percentage points less than male entrepreneurs.

The percentage of female entrepreneurs with an income between 4,836-12,091 US dollars and those with an income between 12,091-60,459 US dollars is respectively 1.5 and 5.2 percentage points higher than male entrepreneurs.

The percentage of female entrepreneurs with the income between 2,418-4,836 US dollars and above 60,459 US dollars is more or less the same as male entrepreneurs.

MNA/Xinhua

1,050 “AIDS” cases in Kuwait since 1984

KWUIT CITY, 21 May—Recent statistics released by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Health showed 1,050 cases of AIDS have been detected in Kuwait between 1984 and 2003.

At Times reported Wednesday.

A reliable Health Ministry source said 703 expatriates were found to be carriers of AIDS during medical tests, which is a prerequisite for stumping the residence permis.

While 343 cases were detected among blood donors and 33 were government employees.

In addition, 58 cases were discovered when renewing their residence.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

Palau, Micronesia reach air service deal

CANBERRA, 21 May—Palau and Micronesia have agreed to allow commercial flights between the two South Pacific states.

An air transport agreement has been signed by Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau and the Federated States of Micronesia’s President Joseph Urusemal, according to the Internet web version of Palau’s local newspaper Palau Horizon on Wednesday.

Under the agreement, each country will appoint one or more airlines to fly as its flag carrier, said the report, which gave no further details of the agreement.

The new flights are expected to help boost trade and tourism between the two neighbours.

Micronesia consists of more than 600 islands and atolls, with a land area of 705 square kilometres and a population of 120,000.

About 400 kilometres to its west is Palau, which comprises eight principal and smaller islands. Palau has a population of 18,000 on a total land area of 458 square kilometres. — MNA/Xinhua

Coal mine accidents kill five in N-W China

LANZHOU, 21 May—Five people were killed in three coal mine accidents that occurred over the weekend in northwestern China’s Gansu Province, the provincial coal mine safety supervision bureau said on Wednesday.

One miner was killed in a cave-in in the Wangjiangshan Coal Mine, a small state-owned coal mine in Jingyuan County on Saturday.

Three others were killed by poisonous gas in a local government-run Jiqangshan Coal Mine in Qixian County in southern Gansu.

Local government sources said that the coal mine had been ordered to suspend production for safety check-up. But two miners went to the shaft without permission at 9:00 a.m. Sunday and were poisoned by the gas.

On learning the accident, deputy head of the coal mine rushed to the shaft to help the two miners, but also was poisoned. All the three miners were found dead later.

Another was killed by a machine used for transporting coal in the Yanbei Coal Mine of the Huating Coal Industrial Group at dusk of Sunday. Investigations into the causes of the three accidents are still going on. — MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

Giraffe mother Luana licks her newborn baby, which stands on wobbly legs just moments after her birth at the zoo in Rapperswil, a town on Lake Zurich about 50 km outside of Zurich, late 17 May, 2004. The young male weighed 85 kilograms and measured 1.5 metres in height at its birth. — INTERNET

Vietnam inaugurates Cam Ranh airport

Hanoi, 21 May—The Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam launched air routes between major cities and a former military base at Cam Ranh Bay in central Khanh Hoa Province on Wednesday.

The base, now the Cam Ranh port, can serve large aircraft such as Airbus A320 and Boeing 7677 freighters and from the capital of Hano, Ho Chi Minh City and central Da Nang City, with a main runway of over three kilometres in length, local newspaper Labour reported.

Investment for the air port has amounted to 44 billion Vietnamese dong (2.8 million US dollars) in four stages.

The former naval and air base at Cam Ranh Bay, constructed by the United States during the Vietnam War, was leased to Russia in 1979. Vietnam and Russia agreed to end the lease in July 2002. — MNA/Xinhua

Mekong sub-region countries study projects on drug control

BANGKOK, 21 May—Six countries of the Mekong sub-region pledged to continue their cooperation to fight illegal drug production in the region during a meeting held in Bangkok on Wednesday in southern Thailand.

Representatives from the six countries, namely China, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand, discussed the progress of 14 ongoing projects related to drug demand reduction, alternative development and law enforcement during their three-day meeting held in the Thai province of Krabi, some 900 kilometres south of Bangkok.

The projects under discussion were initiated under a memorandum of understanding on drug control signed by them in 1993 and had a total budget of more than 13 million US dollars, according to a Press release issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The projects reviewed by the meeting also focused on response to amphetamine type drugs abuse, HIV vulnerability in custodial and community settings and judicial and prosecutorial capacity building.

Besides, participants signed a project document on regional collaboration on community-based alternative development to eliminate opium production in South-East Asia. The newly-agreed documents will help to strengthen regional cooperation and establish institutional linkages to share innovative approaches and best practices on participatory alternative development and illicit crop elimination. — MNA/Xinhua
Arnesen wins three-year deal as Spurs technical director

Amsterdam, 20 May — Frank Arnesen, the former Danish internationa-l, has agreed a three-year deal with Premier League Tottenham Hotspur as technical director. The appointment was announced by his Dutch club PSV Eindhoven on their website on Tuesday.

Arnesen will be responsible for the scouting, youth development and transfers at White Hart Lane.

The move will inevitably fuel speculation that David Pleat, director of football at Spurs and latterly acting manager during a disappointing season in which they finished 14th, will move on.

The 47-year-old Dane won 52 caps and played in the 1984 European Championship finals in France and the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. He played for Ajax Amsterdam, Valencia, Anderlecht and PSV.

“I am very pleased to continue my job as technical director at a traditional club in England,” he said on PSV’s official website.

“Tottenham is a club with a great history and play in one of the best leagues of the world.” — MNA/Reuters

Valencia defeat 10-man Marseille to win UEFA Cup

Goteborg (Sweden), 21 May — Spanish champions Valencia won the UEFA Cup for the first time with an efficient 2-0 victory over 10-man Olympique Marseille in the final on Wednesday.

Marseille goalkeeper Fabien Barthez was shown a straight red card for a two-footed lunge on Valencia striker Mista in first-half injury time and Spanish international winger Vicente converted the resulting penalty.

Vicente then turned provider for Mista to fire past substitute goalkeeper Jeremy Gavanon on 58 minutes, effectively killing off the French side as one half of the full-capacity Nya Ullevi stadium vibrated to a sea of orange.

Valencia’s first major European trophy since their Cup Winners’ Cup triumph of 1980 secured Rafa Benitez’ side a league and UEFA Cup double to cap a superb season.


The last three finals had produced 19 goals but this one was never going to be a goal feast with both sides having kept 14 clean sheets this season.

The 27-year-old Frenchman has been rescheduled one day later from the original date of June 8 to avoid collision with the new Olympic Games.

The Beijing leg of the worldwide Athens Olympic torch relay will be the fifth stop of the 34-city torch relay route, and the torch will remain here for two days as compared to the one-day stays in other cities,” said Zhang. At 9 a.m. on June 9, the first torchbearer, whose name has yet been released, will initiate the relay from the north gate of the Great Wall of the People in downtown Beijing.

The torch will then pass along a well-schemed route, which includes three urban and two suburban districts of the Chinese capital to showcase its resplendent culture and modern charm.

Along the 55-kilometre route, the Olympic torch trav-elled past a host of such sym-bolic sites as the Temple of Heaven, the Central Busi-ness District (CBD) and Hutong (urban lanes) in the traditional residential areas, before reaching the destin-a-tion of the Summer Palace at 6:00 p.m. The last torch-bearer will ignite a ceremo-nial cauldron at the scenic resort spot for a 60-minute party to mark the two-day event.

Valencia’s goal scorer Mista holds the UEFA Cup after beating Olympique Marseille in the final at the Ullevi Stadium in Gothenburg, on 19 May, 2004. Valencia won the match 2-0.—INTERNET

Marseille supporters react as they watch a giant screen during the UEFA Cup final Marseille vs Valencia, on 19 May, 2004 in Marseille, southern France. Valencia defeated Marseille 2-0 in Goteborg, Sweden. —INTERNET

Vennootschap Venlo thrash Helmond Sport 6-0 in Dutch playoffs

Amsterdam, 21 May — VVV Venlo thrashed Helmond Sport 6-0 to move top of Wednesday.

First half goals from Bas Jacobs and John van Loenhout gave VVV, who finished seventh in the Second Division, a comfortable half-time lead. Paul Jans made it 3-0 just after the break before a Bernard Hofstede hat-trick com- pleted the rout.

First Division Vitesse Arnhem fought back from a goal down to beat Sparta Rotterdam 3-1 in the other Group A game with goals from Nicky Hofs (2) and Paul Rink after Yevgeni Levechenko had put the home side ahead in the 20th minute.

Heracles Almelo lead Group B thanks to a 4-0 home win over First Division Volendam, who had Gijs Kuijpers sent off after an acrobatic Bukiemana scored the 14th minutes into the second half before a Linda Wilson own goal with 10 minutes left.

Excelsior Rotterdam, who missed out on the second di-vision title and automatic promotion to Den Bosch on the last day of the season, earned a goalless draw at Groningen’s Doetinchem.

The playoffs include the second and third bottom teams from the first division and the second and seventh in the second who are split into two mini-play-offs in which they play each other home and away with the top two securing a First Division place.

West Ham to play Crystal Palace in playoff final

London, 21 May — West Ham United will face Crystal Palace in an all-London First Division playoff final at the Millennium Stadium this month after a 2-0 win over Ipswich Town on Tuesday night put them through to 2-1 on aggregate.

West Ham have the chance to bounce straight back into the premier league after second-half goals from midfielders Matthew Etherington and defender Christian Dailly gave them a deserved victory in a tough battle with their Sukfoll counterparts.

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

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

Palace reached the final on Monday after beating Sunder-land 3-4 on penalties at the Stadium of Light despite a 2-1 lead on the night that levelled the scores at 4-4 on aggregate.

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

West Ham took control after a goalless first half in which Steve Lomas clipped the Ipswich bar with a fierce first-time effort and Town’s goalkeeper Kelvin Davis made impres-sive saves from a Bobby Zamora header and a long-range Daily drive.
17. Volcanic eruptions in the Taunggyi region.


29. Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST. During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyarwady Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Mon States and Tanintharyi Division, isolated heavy falls in Kayin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were 129.7 (3.72 inches), Thaton (6.73 inches), Mawlamyine (6.10 inches), Myitkyina (6.06 inches), Moulmein (5.53 inches) and Ye (3.34 inches).

30. Minimum temperature on 20-25 April was 32.6°C (90.7°F). Maximum temperature on 21-25 April was 23.5°C (74.3°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-25 April was very high. Total sunshine hours on 20-25 April was (3.08 hours) (Approx). Rainfall on 21-25 April was nil at Yangon, Bago, Mawlamyine and Central wet areas. Maximum wind gusts at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from South at (15:30) hours on 20 May. Moderate monsoon begins to moderate to strong at the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid for 22-28 May is as follows. Be prepared at Kayin States and Tanintharyi Districts, scattered in Rakhine State, Upper Sagiing, Rangoon, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Divisions are isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon State and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (90%). State of the sea: Squalls with temporary rough seas are likely along Mon State, Mergui, Tanintharyi and relevant coastal areas. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Outlook for four to five days. Degree of certainty is (70%). Standby for delay and neighbouring areas for 22-25 May. One to two rain showers.

Weather outlook for third weekend of May 2004: During the coming weekend rain will be scattered in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay, Division.

Monday, 21 May, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST. During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kayin and Kayah States, Magway, Yangon, Ayeyarwady Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Mon States and Tanintharyi Division, isolated heavy falls in Kayin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were 129.7 (3.72 inches), Thaton (6.73 inches), Mawlamyine (6.10 inches), Myitkyina (6.06 inches), Moulmein (5.53 inches) and Ye (3.34 inches).

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Saturday, May 22

11:30 am

The Splendor of Mt Victoria (Namatang).

11:45 am


20:30 National News


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Saturday, May 22

11:10 am

The Splendor of Mt Victoria (Namatang).

11:45 am

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Prime Minister inspects water supply projects for greening tasks in Bago Division

YANGON, 21 May—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left here by Tatmadaw helicopter this morning to inspect cultivation of monsoon paddy in Kayan Township of Yangon Division and Kawa Township of Bago Division.

At 8.20 am, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the site of Bagan Nyaungbin-Ohnnhe-Thakkala-Kayanchaung canal construction project of the irrigation Department near Thakkala Model Village in Kawa Township. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, local authorities and local people.

In the briefing hall, Deputy Director-General U Khin Zaw of ID reported on tasks being carried out under the arrangements of the project for greening the eastern sector of 30-mile radius of environment of Yangon City. Next, he briefed them on availability of 140,000 acre feet of water from Moeyungyi Lake for farmlands, supply of water from Baingda, Kawliya and Bawni dams and Zaungtu diversion dam to Moeyungyi Lake and plans for building dams at Salu Creek, Shwelaung Creek and Kolukwe Creek for the first phase. Afterwards, he continued to submit reports on irrigating 10,000 acres of farmlands in Kawa Township and 55,000 acres in Thanlyin Township. In his report, arrangements were made for taking water from Moeyungyi Lake to Bago-Sittoung Canal through Zwebat Sluice Gate and the water will be supplied to Ohnnhe Creek through Bagan Nyaungbin diversion sluice gate. Finally, water from Ohnnhe Creek will be supplied to Kayan-Thongwa region through canal along Thanatpin-Thongwa Road. He also reported on digging of Bagcan Nyaungbin-Ohnnhe-Thakkala-Kayanchaung canal, completion of Paingkyn and Shwelaung sluice gates and building of Kayanchaung sluice gate.

Plenary Session of National Convention goes on

YANGON, 21 May—The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnipin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9 am today. The National Convention Convening Work Committee made clarifications on administration of justice sector, legislative power of self-administered area leading bodies, delegation of power in connection with matters not stated in the legislative lists of the Union Region or State, and self-administered division or zone leading bodies, legislative powers of Union territories, taking effect of laws enacted by different levels of Hluttaw and self-executive area leading bodies regarding the detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of legislative, executive and judicial powers to be included in writing the State Constitution.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and commission members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and committee members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and committee members, delegates of political parties from Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization and independent delegates, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayan, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of peasants from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia and delegates of workers from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (South), Shan (North) and Shan (East) States, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Auditor-General’s Office, the Multi-party Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, invited persons and other invited delegates and delegates from Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, Shan State (East) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5 (KDA),

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.