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

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

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

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**YANGON, 19 Feb—**

The concluding of the Special Refresher Course No 56 for Basic Education Teachers took place at Nawarat Hall in the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi), Hlegu Township, this morning, with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, the attorney-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, the deputy auditor-general, members of the CSSTB, officials of the SPDCC Office, departmental heads, the rector, faculty members and trainee teachers.

He said the basic education sector is the biggest and the most basic part in national education promotion process and it is also a wide educational infrastructure that covered the far-flung areas.

Training of basic education teachers, the source of education force, through conducting the special refresher courses help gain their new outlook, new thought and new strength in making efforts for promotion of national education.

He said the government believes that the teachers can actively discharge national duties of the education sector.

The special further refresher courses make improvements of service personnel—firm position, firm conviction, dutifulness and strong morale.

He said the teachers are to participate in the constructive endeavours with correct policy of the government in the interests of the people in accord with these qualifications and to prevent the acts of destructive elements from undermining the interests of the people.

It is necessary for them to firmly believe the national policy of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty that came into being due to the lessons bestowed by the history.

He also said they are to discharge duties after realizing the main responsibilities of the respective departments and national duties.

In connection with morale, the Secretary-1 said it is necessary for the teachers to keep the sense of abiding by the law and rules, regulations and codes of conduct of the service personnel of the respective departments, the sense of conducting as citizens, the sense of observing morale and morality, patriotism, nationalistic spirit, national solidarity and the Union spirit.

He emphasized the fact that the teachers are to nurture the new generation youths to become the offspring on whom the State can rely and to fix good qualifications, habits and morale in their mind.

The Secretary-1 said in knowledge age a (See page 8)

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It is necessary for teachers to cooperate with parents and town elders in the interests of their schools and regions. Now, the government is implementing the seven-point Road Map of the State to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic. In this process, the Secretary-1 added, all citizens need to give a helping hand to realization of the national goal with the full sense of duty.

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Minister visits Pwintbyu Textile Factory

YANGON, 19 Feb — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, together with Secretary of Magway Division, Peace and Development Council Lt-col Zaw Thein and Managing Director of the Myanmar Textile Industries U Oo Thein Maung, this morning inspected the Pwintbyu Textile Factory Project in Pwintbyu, Mbinu District, Magway Division.

The minister also inspected the training of the new generation and left instructions on further training of the staff. The 681.71-acre project site is located in the place, two miles from Pwintbyu, near Kanthagyi Village on Lekaing-Pwintbyu Road in Pwintbyu Township will be put into service soon. Next, the minister visited Win Thuzar Shop (Pwintbyu). — MNA

I&R Minister looks into paddy, crops cultivation tasks

YANGON, 19 Feb — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, accompanied by departmental officials, inspected water supply tasks from Ngamweyik Dam and crops cultivation in Gyokon Village, Hlegu Township, this morning and he was conducted by Deputy Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw. Afterwards, the minister looked into plantations of summer paddy in Kyaukkadin Village and model plots of Myanmar Agriculture Service. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions on providing the technological assistance to the farmer so as to meet the target of per-acre yield.

Next, the minister proceeded to 120 acres farmland being undertaken by Yangon Command in Hlegu and Mingaladon Townships and inspected supply of water to summer paddy plantations from the river water pumping station, the arrangements of the Water Resource Utilization Department for irrigation system, cultivation of high yield paddy strain and crops.

Later, the minister gave instructions on providing of and systematic use of water technological assistance.

Coordination meeting on assembling of CNG-run vehicles held

YANGON, 19 Feb — The coordination meeting on assembling of CNG-run vehicles was held at the Ministry of Industry-2 yesterday afternoon. Present were Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Li-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, departmental heads, officials of private bus lines and entrepreneurs.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin instructed those present to accelerate assembling of CNG-run vehicles at four ministries and six industrial zones to meet the target, coordinate solving problems together with Ministry of Industry-2 and purchase CNG conversion kits and he added arrangements of Myanmar Industrial Development Bank for fulfilling financial requirements.

Deputy Minister Li-Col Khin Maung Kyaw reported on the plan to convert 5,000 buses and 1,000 TE vehicles of departments in Yangon Division to CNG-run vehicles and purchase of CNG conversion kits and gas cylinders.

Those present took part in the discussions. The minister gave necessary instructions.

After the meeting, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin proceeded to No 1 Automobile Factory in Mayangon Township. He inspected arrival of CNG conversion kits from abroad and gas cylinders and conversion of diesel-run mini-buses to CNG ones. Managing Director U Soe Thein of Myanmar Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries and General Manager U Hlaing Thein conducted them round the site. The minister instructed officials to distribute CNG conversion kits to departments concerned and industrial zones.

Malaysia-Japan EPA under negotiation

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Feb — The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Malaysia and Japan, which is still under negotiation, would involve cooperation and Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a Malaysian official said on Thursday.

“For example, the cooperation is on education, human resource development, information communication technology (ICT), research and development, science and technology, while on FTA, it will be more on trade and investment,” said Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah after meeting a business delegation of Kansai Economic Federation of Japan at his office here, according to the local news agency Bernama.

He said at the previous negotiation held last month in Kuala Lumpur that Japan showed keen interest in expediting the agreement as it believed that EPA would benefit the economy of both countries.

The next round of negotiations on the agreement was scheduled here in April, he added.

On the meeting with the Japanese delegation, he said the federation had expressed its support to the Malaysian Government toward EPA negotiation as it appreciated the Malaysia’s support on Japanese investment here.

From January to October 2004, a total of 69 Japanese investment projects in the manufacturing sector were approved, amounting to 10.68 billion US dollars and creating 362,033 jobs.

In 2004, total trade between Malaysia and Japan amounted to 29.52 billion US dollars, surpassing the 25.5 billion US dollars in 2003.

China, India forming strategic ties

BEIJING, 18 Feb — When Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei and Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, on behalf of their respective governments, sat together for a “strategic dialogue”, the two countries were pushing their bilateral relations onto a new stage, wrote an author in Friday’s China Daily.

Fang Zhou said the world’s two most populous nations have for a long time shown a willingness to shoulder more responsibility and play larger roles in the regional and international stages as their regional and international influence continuously surges.

The two-day strategic talks, started on January 24 in New Delhi, is aimed at broadening the scope of Sino-Indian relationship while providing both countries with a platform to exchange notes on regional and global issues of common concern.

Among the topics discussed were the issues of globalization, energy security, democratization of international relations, reform of the United Nations (UN), non-proliferation, anti-terrorism and the situation in Iraq and on the Korean Peninsula.

The two sides also briefed each other on their respective foreign and security policies and reached common ground on a wide range of issues.

At this meeting of historical significance, both sides did not camouflage their strong desire to look beyond bilateral disputes and develop and upgrade ties in a global perspective.

Both countries stressed the importance of reforming international institutions, including the UN and its Security Council. Both sides regarded the possibility of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and sensitive technologies falling in the hands of terrorists as “a grave threat”.

And both recognized the importance of international cooperation instead of unilateral actions to combat penetrative global dangers.

Also, both sides basically reached an agreement on the next round of talks to be held in China on mutually agreed dates and necessary preparations for a visit to India by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao set for March, which is expected to mark a new phase in bilateral ties.

China’s non-oil exports retained growth of 9% in January

SINGAPORE, 18 Feb — Singapore’s non-oil domestic exports (NODX) retained a healthy growth of 9.9 per cent in January, compared with the same period of last year.

According to the figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore on Thursday, the electronics sector, which accounts for about half of the island state’s NODX, grew at a lower rate of 5.9 per cent in January than last December’s 8.3 per cent increase.

The NODX of non-electronic products continued to expand by 12.4 per cent in January, mainly supported by the strong exports of petrochemicals, electrical machinery and raw chemicals.

The NODX to China remained a robust growth of 44.5 per cent in January, the 20th consecutive month of double digit growth, while the NODX to the United States increased by 24.5 per cent.

However, the NODX to the European Union shrunk largely to a 2.9 per cent contraction.

Dry weather with high temperature, scorch Singapore

SINGAPORE, 18 Feb — The dry weather with high temperature has entered the 27th day in Singapore and the island state saw the biggest bush fire so far this year on Thursday.

According to Channel NewsAsia report on Thursday night, Singapore is now in one of the dry spell cycles, which recur once every five years.

The biggest bushfire broke out in Lim Chu Kang, north-west part of the city state, and swept over an area equaling the size of 15 football fields.

There have been 377 bush fires since 1 January this year, the report said, while the numbers for the whole year of 2004 and 2003 were 500 and 355 respectively.

As most of the fires broke out on vacant land, no injury has been reported so far, according to the report.

Expecting February to be hot and dry, the National Environment Agency (NEA) said that 9 February, the first day of the Year of the Rooster, was the hottest day in 15 years in Singapore with the temperature hitting 35.5 degrees Celsius.

Though the first rain since 20 January fell in some parts of the city state on Thursday, it did not seem to help improve the situation a lot.

1,475 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — As of Friday, 18 Feb, 2005, at least 1,475 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,116 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 13 higher than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated 10 Feb an EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,337 US military members have died, according to AP’s count.
China promotes regional cooperation to revitalize Silk Road

BEIJING, 18 Feb — China will launch a new regional programme involving four Central Asian countries to rejuvenate the Silk Road, a representative from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said here on Thursday.

The programme will introduce a Silk Road Mayors Forum, the Silk Road multiple entry visa and awarding the title of UN Silk Road City, Khalid Malik, resident representative in China, said.

The two-year "Silk Road Project" involves the UN, the governments of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Stretching over 7,000 kilometres, the ancient Silk Road snakes from Xi’an, capital of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, through Central Asia and ends in Rome.

"With a total fund of one million US dollars, this project represents a strategic follow-up phase of an earlier UNDP programme Silk Road Area Development - Phase I," said Malik.

The fund is only the catalyst for the reviving of the road, and more countries, such as Japan, Turkey and Russia, are encouraged to join the effort. According to Malik, the first phase of the Silk Road Area Development project will focus on changing policies and tariff. Currently, though, the UN is working just to establish partnerships and conversation mechanisms between China and countries from Central Asia.

Fikret Akruta, UNDP resident representative in Uzbekistan, said the Silk Road Project is not an "isolated effort".

"Central Asia’s ability to integrate into the international economic system is seen increasingly, in terms of its ability to expand levels of inter-regional and intra-regional economic cooperation," Akruta said.

Responding to the questions of illegal immigration and regional security issues associated to the Silk Road Project, Malik said that the multiple entry visa is an attempt to "increase possibilities" of economic development.

"From our own experience, where there is peace and prosperity, terrorism subsides," said Malik. "Regional cooperation is a key to help meet the Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty and promoting growth and equality."—MNA/Xinhua

China speeds up building of national innovation mechanism

BEIJING, 18 Feb — A senior science and technology official said here Thursday that China is speeding up the building of a national innovation mechanism to spur more scientific and technological breakthroughs in the world’s most populous country.

Shang Yong, Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, said at a high-profile discussion that the country encourages national and local enterprises to sharpen their edges in innovation.

Shang said the state is considering adopting new incentive policies which might improve innovative ideas and human forces for scientific innovation.

Chinese scientists and technical workers are encouraged to resolve problems faced by the whole nation in sustained social economic development, Shang said.

In modern times, he said, Chinese scientists and technical workers have more access to the world’s latest technologies.

Since China entered into the World Trade Organization in 2001, developing countries and many multinational companies have taken tougher measures on Chinese global business players in technological advancement.

"Developing countries can never borrow, or even buy, technologies from their competitors in developed countries," Shang said. More than 30 ranking officials and experts from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Education, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering participated in the discussion.—MNA/Xinhua

East China park on UNESCO’s new geoparks list

FUZHOU, 19 Feb — Taining Geopark in east China’s Fujian Province has just been included on the second geoparks list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the local government said.

Three other Chinese geoparks are also on the new UNESCO list released at the second international conference on geoparks held in Paris this month, increasing China’s total number of geoparks on the UNESCO list from eight to 12. —MNA/Xinhua

“A one Country, Two Systems” becomes successful reality in HK

HONG KONG, 19 Feb — Hong Kong’s challenge to turn the “One Country, Two Systems” principle into reality has been successfully met, Hong Kong Secretary for Justice Elsie Leung said on Thursday.

Opening the 2005 Legal Year Thursday, Leung said that in an open society governed by the rule of law, controversial issues and constitutional challenges are inevitable.

"The resolution of each controversy has left us with a better understanding of 'One Country, Two Systems', and a greater ability to tackle new problems," she said.

Over the past seven years, more than a third of the 160 Basic Law articles have been interpreted by Hong Kong’s courts. She said judgments in these cases not only determined the particular dispute on issue, but also created a body of precedents that strengthens our understanding of the Basic Law.

Important aspects of the Basic Law that have been clarified include the right of abode, the continuity of the common law, freedom of expression, the right of peaceful assembly, the protection of property rights, and the rights of public servants.

Noting that a Constitution has been compared a “living tree,” Leung said precedents on the meaning of the Basic Law can therefore be regarded as the growing roots and branches of HK’s Constitution.

"This process of growth is of immense value to the government and the legal profession and to the community as a whole. The government will acquire more guidance as to what it may, and may not, lawfully do. The legal profession will be better able to advise clients. And members of the community will see that the core values set out in the Basic Law are protected by independent judges."—MNA/Xinhua

Castro blasts US-led war in Iraq

Havana, 19 Feb—President Fidel Castro called the US-led war in Iraq a "brutal bombing spectacle," and criticized the Bush administration for its spending on the war.

In comments televised Friday from a speech two days earlier, Castro said the billions of dollars being spent in Iraq "won't cure AIDS, won't cure any disease, won't cure anybody."

Meanwhile, he said in the speech to a workers’ congress in Havana, Cuba exports thousands of doctors to needy countries.

"Mr Bush put forth 15 billion dollars, and with that the world moved on to the stage of the Iraq war, that brutal bombing spectacle," Castro said in remarks lasting nearly three hours. "But what is needed over there is a man, a revolutionary doctor who can save lives. And that’s what we have."

Castro also criticized several developed nations — especially those who frequently voice concerns about human rights — for not doing more in the field of health.

"All of Europe together couldn’t pull together the 500 doctors and health care workers we have over there," he said, referring to Cuban teams of specialists working in Haiti.

Cuba was internationally criticized for a crackdown on political opposition in the spring of 2003, when 75 dissidents were arrested and sentenced to long prison terms. Fourteen of them have since been released for health reasons.

Castro advised those who continue to accuse Cuba of human rights violations to focus on their own problems.—INTERNET

Models pose next to the mid-sized sedan 'NF Sonata' unveiled by Hyundai Motor Co in Seoul recently.—INTERNET
The dawn rays from the east horizon were rising gradually. Those rays made the whole environment become clear and pleasant.

Our car crossed the Sittoung Bridge in the morning twilight. With peace and tranquillity restored in the Region, the Sittoung Bridge and the Bilin Bridge could be passed through round the clock. After passing through the Sittoung Bridge, we arrived in Moppalin where there are many restaurants. After driving the 12-mile trip from Moppalin and Kyakko we arrived at the Kinmon Sakhan through Kyakhto feeder road.

The Kyakhto Pagoda, which is situated on Paalgauang mountain range, is magnificent and glorious with water falls, streams and shades of forests and mountains. The Sittoung River is meandering far away in the west and the south like a large snake lying on the Kiyahto Pagoda looked sublime amidst fog and cloud.

We ascended the mountain by car from Kinmon Sakhan at the foot of the hill to the precinct of the pagoda and paid homage to it. Devotees including tourists were being despatched to the pagoda through the concrete road.

Our car left Mt Kyakhto for Mottama as we had completed our visit to the Kyakhto Pagoda. Mon State has fully enjoyed fruits of peace and development. National races such as Mon, Kayin, PaO, Shan, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Rakhi and Bama reside together in Mon State. The national races residing in the Union of Myanmar are good-natured, united, disciplined and hardworking.

A network of infrastructures for national development have emerged across the nation as a result of the combined efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Our car was on its way to Mawlamyine as we were to attend the opening ceremony of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne), which is due to be opened on the morning of 5 February 2005. To be able to build Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne) in accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, geographical survey was conducted in 1998.

The bridge construction started after the stake-driving ceremony took place on 18 March 2000 and it has now been opened. A total of 200 bridges, each of which is over 180 feet long have been constructed in the time of the Tatmadaw Government. Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne) is among them. The Ministry of Construction has so far built 179 bridges; the Directorate of Military Engineers, seven bridges; the Ministry of Rail Transportation, seven bridges; the Ministry of Electric Power, one bridge; three bridges were built for border area development project and three bridges for regional development numbering 200 in total. Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne) has emerged due to the efforts of Myanamar engineers, which was just a dream in previous eras. The inauguration of the bridge was a great honour to all national people, particularly to those in Mon State.

Extending greetings to the people at the opening ceremony of the bridge, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that he came to Mawlamyine to attend the inauguration of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne) and he conveyed best wishes to those present.

He said it has been a long time that the government would like to build such bridge that is useful to the region and the country. However, the bridge construction project could not be implemented immediately because of some difficulties, especially financial constraints and technological problems. The government was thus looking forward to appropriate time and circumstances.

Now economy of the country has improved to a certain extent. As small, medium and large bridges could be built technologically, the government gained technological know-how and experiences.

Therefore, it is capable of building such kind of bridge, he said. It is important for a country to have the strength of solidarity and the strength of community peace & tranquillity as well as rule of law & order whatever difficulty the country encounters. Difficulties can be overcome through these two strengths. The bridge has emerged because of the two strengths, he stressed.

As the bridge was constructed at the confluence of three rivers, the engineers had to work hard to construct the bridge because the river is not only wide and deep but also has a lot of whirls. Relentless efforts and energy were therefore made in response to a crying need for construction of the bridge.

Continuing, he said, the government built this bridge with the aim of ensuring regional development and promoting socio-economic life of local people. Local people now go easily from one place to another through the bridge in a short time.

Thanlwin Bridge linking Mawlamyine and Mottama was constructed at the confluence of the Thanlwin River, the Gyaing River and the Attayan River. Before this bridge has come into existence, people travelling to Mawlamyine found it difficult in crossing the Thanlwin River.

Although the trip between Mottama and Mawlamyne was near in sight it turned out to be far. It took long to reach the other bank. Down on luck, travellers had to spend a night there. It was risky for the people and students to cross the river in the rainy season.

Now the obstacles are a thing of the past. With the emergence of this bridge, Mon State will boom in trade with neighbouring regions.

To ensure regional development and better transport in Mon State, village-to-village roads, village-to-town roads and roads leading to the Union Highway were constructed in townships of Mon State. As a result, the length of roads in Mon State has increased to 2,615 miles from 988 miles in 1988 and railroad also has been extended to 293 miles from 276.

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne) is the rail cum-road bridge—two railroads and one motorway. Not only the railroads but also the motorway were built on the bridge within the iron frames.

The upper structure of the bridge is of steel frame and reinforced concrete and the lower structure, of reinforced concrete piles and bored piles.

The bridge has a 28-foot-wide motorway and the railroad, 14 feet wide. It has a six-foot-wide walkway on either side. Its clearance is 328 feet wide and 46 feet high.

The main bridge is 7,699 feet long. Its approach structure on Mawlamyine bank is 1624 feet long and 2,252 feet on Mottama bank, totalling 11,551 feet.

The bridge is located on Yangon-Mawlamyne-Myeik-Kawthoung road. Construction started on 18 March 2000 and was completed on 7 December 2004. Its motor road is more than two miles long and railroad, more than four miles.

As the bridge was constructed at the confluence of three rivers, the engineers had to work hard to construct the fine facility because the river is not only wide and deep but also has a lot of whirls.

Relentless efforts and energy were therefore made in response to a crying need for the construction of the bridge.

Therefore, the bridge will always reflect the brains and brawn of Myanmar. From nationalistic point of view, the bridge is a national pride as well as a glory for Mawlamyine of Mon State.

With the emergence of the Attayan bridge, the Gyaing bridge, the Ye bridge and the Donthami bridge in Mon State, there has been swift and smooth trade between Mon State and Kayin State and between Mon State and Taninthayi Division.

It is safe to say that Thanlwin Bridge has emerged thanks to concerted and harmonious efforts of the service personnel and the people under the leadership of the government.

(Translation:TS)

The 11,575-foot Rail-cum-road Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyne), the longest and the largest in Myanmar, lies on Thanlwin River after its opening ceremony. —MNA
The State shall provide inputs such as technology, investments, machinery, raw materials etc. as much as it can for changeover from manual to mechanized agriculture.

Yangon, 19 Feb — National Convention delegates at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, took physical exercises such as walking, playing badminton, aerobic, billiards and golf events on misty day today (Saturday). Furthermore, the delegates visited Win Thaz Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1, GEC shop, the shop of dairy products, and Myint Pyae Khaing Myo Thantlan Township, where some delegates were the only ones who did not participate in the exercises due to personal reasons. However, they continued their work as usual.

The State shall provide inputs such as technology, investments, machinery, raw materials etc. as much as it can for changeover from manual to mechanized agriculture.

Yangon, 19 Feb — On behalf of the Panel of Alternate Chairmen Dr Myo Than Tin of the Delegates of Workers presented the panel of chairman’s collection of excerpts from the suggestions compiled by delegates to the National Convention on the agriculture and livestock breeding sector at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, yesterday.

The following is a translation of presentation made by Dr Myo Than Tin.

Esteemed delegates,

Now, a collection of the excerpts from the suggestions compiled by the panel of meeting chairman concerning the 11 points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector to be included in the sharing the legislative power will be presented.

The following is a translation of presentation made by Dr Myo Than Tin.

The matters of the agriculture and livestock breeding sector should be included in the Union Legislative list. They may be stated together as follows:

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

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

The National Unity Party said that the land management, reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands, and settlement and land records should be included in the Union legislative list. They may be stated together as follows:

1. land management,
2. reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands,
3. settlement and land records,
4. survey,
5. dams, embankments and water supply managed by Pyidaungsu,
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Therefore, the delegates to the National Convention are to give suggestions as to whether or not the detailed basic principles should be laid down to include them in the Region or State Legislative list in connection with the matters mentioned above.

He continued to say, “The matters of the agriculture and livestock breeding sector that should be included in the Region or State Legislative list are as follows:

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

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

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

The Union Pa-O National Organization said that land and water are the main requirements of the agricultural sector. Thus, the Government has been building irrigation facilities with might and main. Myanmar should train its staff to be skilled in conducting meteorology, hydrology and seismic survey and research. The Government has laid down six work programmes for agricultural mechanization. It had also formed the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee and set up industrial zones all over the country. It will conduct research work constantly and make arrangements for distributing adequate amounts of fertilizers and pesticides in all parts of the nation. Sea and fresh water fishing should be carried out in accordance with the procedures. Land management, reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands, settlement and land records, survey, dams, embankments and water supply managed by Pyidaungsu, meteorology, hydrology and seismic survey, registration, mechanized farming, agricultural research, chemical fertilizer and insecticide, and marine fisheries in the Union legislative list.

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

The Union Pa-O National Organization said that land and water are the main requirements of the agricultural sector. Thus, the Government has been building irrigation facilities with might and main. Myanmar should train its staff to be skilled in conducting meteorology, hydrology and seismic survey and research. The Government has laid down six work programmes for agricultural mechanization. It had also formed the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee and set up industrial zones all over the country. It will conduct research work constantly and make arrangements for distributing adequate amounts of fertilizers and pesticides in all parts of the nation. Sea and fresh water fishing should be carried out in accordance with the procedures. Land management, reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands, settlement and land records, survey, dams, embankments and water supply managed by Pyidaungsu, meteorology, hydrology and seismic survey, registration, mechanized farming, agricultural research, chemical fertilizer and insecticide, and marine fisheries in the Union legislative list.

The National Unity Party said that the land management, reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands, settlement and land records, survey, dams, embankments and water supply managed by Pyidaungsu, meteorology, hydrology and seismic survey, registration, mechanized farming, agricultural research, chemical fertilizer and insecticide, and marine fisheries in the Union legislative list.

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and states and self-administered areas should be permitted to have different types of land for reclamation, and possibility of the occurrence of natural hazards is also different between one region and another and they are subject to various climatic conditions. Authorities of the regions and states should be permitted to reclaim land for development of various sectors without going against the Union laws.

Moreover, the tasks regarding settlement and land reclamation, embankments and water supply, managed by Pyidaungsu, meteorology, hydrology and seismic survey, registration, mechanized farming, agricultural research, and chemical fertilizer and insecticide should be included in the Union legislative list. It is appropriate to include the sector concerning the marine fisheries in the Union legislative list to enact laws for local and foreign fishing enterprises running business in the vast Myanmar territorial waters.

Representative select U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township constituency in northern Shan State said that in addition to taking measures for agricultural development, crops cultivation businesses that should help develop border areas should be extended.

In all regions it is difficult to cultivate paddy, sugarcane, cotton, and beans and pulses on an extensive scale. Slash-and-burn cultivation destroys forests and causes adverse weather changes. Thus, the nation needs to introduce advanced farming methods. Local farmers should conduct manageable-scale research on their own crop plantations till the emergence of large-scale farms run by the State or by big companies. They should conduct research, set up model farms, visit farms of other nations and import foreign experts. Otherwise, Myanmar markets will be flooded with foodstuff such as apples, tea, garlic imported from other countries within a few years. Research projects in regions and states and self-administered areas must be permitted if they are not against the Union law. Thus, the 11 points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector should be included in the Union legislative list. The national race delegate group said that the first objective of the four economic objectives calls for “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of economy as well.” Targets should be set to extend food and industrial crop production for local and international consumption as well as for export. Policies for land reclamation, survey and irrigation works should be laid down and necessary laws should be enacted to realize the targets. In this context, the 11 points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector should be included in the Union legislative list.

The regions and states have the duty to give close supervision to the national plans for their success. Thus, the seven points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector that should be included in the region or state legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

Generally, industrial nations are rich. But they have to make arrangements to obtain adequate amount of raw materials to get rich. Thus, cultivation of paddy, beans and pulses, sugarcane, cotton, coffee should be extended for local consumption and export, according to the national race delegate group.

Peasant delegate group said that the first objective of the four economic objectives calls for “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of economy as well.” Targets should be set to extend food and industrial crop production for local and international consumption as well as for export. Policies for land reclamation, survey and irrigation works should be laid down and necessary laws should be enacted to realize the targets. In this context, the 11 points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector should be included in the Union legislative list. The regions and states have the duty to give close supervision to the national plans for their success. Thus, the seven points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector that should be included in the region or state legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

The regions and states have the duty to give close supervision to the national plans for their success. Thus, the seven points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector that should be included in the region or state legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

In giving a separate suggestion, the group dealt with the occurrence, control and vaccination of animal diseases. The State will have to conduct research to produce new and potent vaccines and to prevent the spread of animal diseases in regions or states bordering the countries where the infection starts. A basic principle concerning the animal disease prevention and treatment should be included in the Union legislative list.

The term “Livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically” of the matters regarding the agriculture and livestock sector that should be included in the region or state legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

Finally, the purpose of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector that should be included in the region or state legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

Generally, industrial nations are rich. But they have to make arrangements to obtain adequate amount of raw materials to get rich. Thus, cultivation of paddy, beans and pulses, sugarcane, cotton, coffee should be extended for local consumption and export, according to the national race delegate group.

Peasant delegate group said that the first objective of the four economic objectives calls for “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of economy as well.” Targets should be set to extend food and industrial crop production for local and international consumption as well as for export. Policies for land reclamation, survey and irrigation works should be laid down and necessary laws should be enacted to realize the targets. In this context, the 11 points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector should be included in the Union legislative list. The regions and states have the duty to give close supervision to the national plans for their success. Thus, the seven points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector that should be included in the region or state legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

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The term “Livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically” of the matters regarding the agriculture and livestock sector that should be included in the region or state legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

State service personnel delegate group said that 11 points of the agricultural and livestock breeding sector should be included in the Union legislative list. It also added the sector “Animal reproduction, disease control and treatment, and research” as the 12th of the 11 points to be included in the Union legislative list. It also gave a suggestion to substitute the term “livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically” of the matters regarding the agriculture and livestock sector that should be included in the region or state Legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

The group discussed in support from the points of 1 to 6 out of the seven that should be included in the region or state legislative list, suggesting to substitute the seventh point “livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically” with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically,” in accord with the law enacted by the Union.

In connection with this, the group said regions and states should give close supervision to the task of livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically. Thus the task should be included in the region or state legislative list.

Other invited persons delegates group said that in his clarification, the Work Committee Chairman said, “The State shall provide inputs such as technology, investments, machinery, raw materials etc. as much as it can for changeover from manual to mechanized agriculture.” As the point is in accord with the State’s economic objectives, the group discussed in support of the 11 points to be included in the Union legislative list and the seven points to be included n the region or state legislative list.

If the regions and states are managed to permit land use, produce and use chemical fertilizers and pesticides and conduct research work, the nation’s agricultural sector will achieve rapid development.

Of the points that should be included in the Union legislative list, the following sectors should be permitted:

1. land management,
2. reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands,
3. mechanized farming,
4. agricultural research,
5. chemical fertilizer and insecticide, and
6. marine fisheries’ should be permitted to run by the regions ad states.—MNA

2. the State permits all economic forces such as the State itself, regional organizations, cooperative organizations, joint ventures organizations and private concerns etc, to take part in economic activities for the development of national economy;
3. the State shall prevent acts that harm public interests through monopolization or manipulation of prices by an individual or group with intent to jeopardize fair competition in economic activities.

Regarding the seven points of the sector that should be included in the region or state Legislative list concerning the economic sector:
1. Economic activities carried out in a region or state in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
2. Trade activities carried out in a region or state in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.
3. Cooperative activities carried out in a region or state in accord with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

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

Respected delegates,
As regards this clarification, the National Unity Party, which is one of seven political parties of the delegature group of political parties, discussed that in line with the open market-oriented economic system, businesses in trade, cooperatives, corporation, enterprise, company, and joint ventures are being conducted on a wider and extensive scale. It is encouraging to note that permission is granted to foreign and domestic entrepreneurs to establish companies. The holding of trade fairs at home to encourage the development of export industry and to find new markets can contribute much to the country’s economy. It is therefore proper to include this matter in the Union Legislative list. After the designation of the year 1996 as Visit Myanmar Year with the aim of earning more foreign exchange, the number of tourists visiting the country has been on the rise. Modern and posh hotels are necessary to ensure cozy and comfortable accommodation for them. It is therefore proper to include the hotel and tourism industry in the Union Legislative list. The National Unity Party also agreed to the distribution of power to the region or the state in accord with the law prescribed in the Union legislative list and the seven points of the sector that should be included in the region or state legislative list. The group gave a suggestion to add the point “Animal reproduction, disease control and treatment, and research” as the 12th of the 11 points to be included in the Union legislative list. It also gave a suggestion to substitute the term “livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically” of the matters regarding the agriculture and livestock sector that should be included in the region or state Legislative list should be substituted with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically.”

The regions and states have the duty to give close supervision to the task of livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically. Thus the task should be included in the region or state legislative list.

The group discussed in support of the points from 1 to 6 out of the seven that should be included in the region or state legislative list, suggesting to substitute the seventh point “livestock breeding, prevention and treatment of diseases and the keeping of animals systematically” with the term “Livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically,” in accord with the law enacted by the Union.

In connection with this, the group said regions and states should give close supervision to the task of livestock breeding and keeping of animals systematically. Thus the task should be included in the region or state legislative list.

Other invited persons delegates group said that in his clarification, the Work Committee Chairman said, “The State shall provide inputs such as technology, investments, machinery, raw materials etc. as much as it can for changeover from manual to mechanized agriculture.” As the point is in accord with the State’s economic objectives, the group discussed in support of the 11 points to be included in the Union legislative list and the seven points to be included n the region or state legislative list.

If the regions and states are managed to permit land use, produce and use chemical fertilizers and pesticides and conduct research work, the nation’s agricultural sector will achieve rapid development.

Of the points that should be included in the Union legislative list, the following sectors should be permitted:
1. land management,
2. reclamation of vacant, fallow and virgin lands,
3. mechanized farming,
4. agricultural research,
5. chemical fertilizer and insecticide, and
6. marine fisheries’ should be permitted to run by the regions ad states.—MNA
The teachers play an important role in the implementation of national education plans. They help to prepare the students for the future by imparting knowledge and skills necessary for their professional and personal development.

The Union PaO National Organization discussed detailed basic principles that should be laid down in the Union Legislative List for commerce, trade, cooperatives, enterprise, industry, joint venture, the evaluation of the import and export goods, and hotel and tourism industry.

The Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization suggested that in the words of the Work Committee Chairman in respect of the economic sector, it is proper to include in the Union Legislative List the seven points that should be included in the Union Legislative List in order to enact laws in connection with small or second-class accommodations that necessary laws be enacted depending on the different conditions of the areas where such industry is undertaken.

They also discussed that tourism can fall into two types: one is global and the other is local. Therefore, it is proper to include in the Union Legislative List the seven points that should be included in the Region or State Legislative Lists as detailed basic principles to enact laws when necessary.

Economic boost will bring prosperity to the region and strengthen the local private sector. The Wa National Development Party considered the seven points to be included in the Union Legislative List to be reasonable and that these points should be included in the Union Legislative List as detailed basic economic policies.

The National Convention has also passed three economic policies: 1. economy; 2. trade; 3. cooperatives; 4. corporation, board, enterprise, company and partnership; and 5. import, export and quality control — proper to be embedded in the Union Legislative List.

They also suggested on hotels and accommodations. Their suggestion was that hotels and accommodations vary from one another in standard. The same thing can be said of the travellers. Guests can be categorized into State-sponsored guests, tourists, merchants, pilgrims and so on. They continued that is it proper to include in the Union Legislative List in order to enact laws in connection with the hotel management. However, it is also suggested in connection with small or second-class accommodations that necessary laws be enacted depending on the different conditions of the areas where such industry is undertaken.

The Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization presented their proposals in connection with small or second-class accommodations that necessary laws be enacted depending on the different conditions of the areas where such industry is undertaken. They also discussed that tourism can fall into two types: one is global and the other is local. Therefore, it is proper to include in the Union Legislative List the seven points that should be included in the Union Legislative List as detailed basic principles to enact laws when necessary.
Oil industry covering exploration, production, sales etc. needs a large amount of investment and has trade relations with foreign countries. Moreover, it is important for the State security and economy. Thus, the inclusion of the industry in Union legislative list is appropriate. But in the areas whose oil production volume is less, legislative power for oil production should be distributed to regions and states without opposing the Union law.

Concerning the 11 points of the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector scheduled to be included in the sharing the legislative power will be presented.

Esteemed delegates,

At the plenary meeting held on 19 May 2004, the Work Committee Chair- man said, “I will now explain the matters related to the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sec- tor. Concerning the land, water and air resources, the National Convention has formulated the funda- mental principles as follows:

1. The State is the ultimate owner of all the land, and natural resources above and below the ground, above and beneath the water and in the atmos- phere within its territorial boundary.

2. The State shall enact necessary law to supervise economic forces’ extrac- tion and utilization of State-owned natural re- sources.”

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

1. oil and other liquid and solid products consid- ered as natural resources inflam- mable according to Pyidaungsu Law;
2. Union electricity pro- duction and distribution;
3. minerals, mining and forest resources, and mineral resources, and environmental conserva- tion and reconstruction;
4. gems, and
5. forest; and
6. conservation and protec- tion of wildlife, natural resources and natural areas in- cluding the environment.

“Not only do the matters suitable to be put in the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector concern the whole na- tion, but they also link logical gardens and bo- tanical gardens. Therefore, the dele- gates to the National Convention are to give suggestions as to whether or not the detailed basic principles should be laid down to include them in the Legislative list of the Region or State concerned to enact laws, if necessary, in connection with the matters mentioned above.”

Concerning the sector, the National Unity Party noted that it has no further suggestions or discussions concerning the sector.

Union Pa-O National Organization said that all the seven points of the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Of the five papers presented by the representatives-elect group, the papers presented by the delegates of the National Unity Party and the Mro or Khami National Solidarity Or- ganization are the same as in the sector.

Representative-elect Dr. Hnin Hian of Thantlang Township constituency in Chin State, and Representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency in Shan State said that all the seven points of the energy, elec- tricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Lahu National Develop- ment Party said that the inclusion of the seven points of the sector in the Union legislative list and the five points in the region or state legislative lists is appropriate.

Union Kayin League said that the party has no additional discussions and suggestions on the matter of putting the sec- tor in the Union legislative list. All the five points of the sector should be in- cluded in the region or state legislative lists.

Forest Democracy and Unity Party said that the National Convention has laid down the following two basic principles:

1. The State is the ultimate owner of all the land and natural resources above and below the ground, above and beneath Union Kayin League, and in the atmospheric- al boundary within its territorial boundary.

2. The State shall enact necessary law to supervise economic forces’ extrac- tion and utilization of State-owned natural re- sources. The party has no further discussions and suggestion on the sharing of legislative power be- tween the Union and re- gions and states concern- ing the sector.

Union Pa-O National Develop- ment Party said that all the seven points of the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Of the five papers presented by representatives-elect group, the papers presented by the delegates of the National Unity Party and the Mro or Khami National Solidarity Or- ganization are the same as in the sector.

Representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township constituency in Shan State said that all the seven points of the energy, elec- tricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Thus, the inclusion of the industry in Union leg- islative list is appropriate. But in the areas whose oil produc- tion volume is less, legislative power for oil production should be distributed to regions and states without opposing the Union law.

Forest conservation and plantation is required for perpetuation of forests as they play an important role in the national economy. Forests are also helping balance the nature and con- serve the environment.

Dr U Thein Oo Po
Po Saw.

ANGON

(See page 10)
Not only do matters suitable...

Representative-elect U Tun Kyaw of Nambon Township constituency in northern Shan State said that all the seven points of the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region or state legislative lists as detailed basic principles.

The national race delegate group said that the seven points of the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region or state legislative lists as detailed basic principles.

In giving a separate suggestion, it said the nation has a 1,375-mile long coastline, and the continental shelf is rich in valuable natural resources. Arrangements should be made to extract the riches with the use of advanced technology and equipment.

It added that increase in the number of industries, vehicles, buildings and people may cause air pollution. Thus in extending towns, wards and villages, 25 per cent of their territory should be left vacant for forest plantations parks and recreation centres to prevent air pollution. Hence it said, urban forestation should be included in enacting the forestry law.

Peasant delegate group said that all the seven points of the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region or state legislative lists as detailed basic principles.

Worker delegate group said that all the seven points of the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region or state legislative lists as detailed basic principles.

Respected delegates, The delegate group of peasants discussed that economic objectives are being implemented to ensure social advancement in the life of the people. It also said that laws, rules, and regulations are promulgated to enable the open market-oriented economic system to take full shape.

It approved of the seven points that should be included in the Union Legislative List and the three points that should be included in the Region or State Legislative Lists. It also recommended that the Region or State Legislative Lists be considered detailed basic principles.

It also said that the places of tourist attraction may exist in the regions or states. Therefore, tourism industry should be undertaken on a greater scale in these areas with the help of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

It pointed out that hilly regions lagged behind in development as a result of the continued practice of the slash and burn farming method although measures are being taken to boost the national economy through agriculture.

It continued that close supervision should be made more than ever before to ensure the shift from the old method to the modern slope farming method in line with the highland farming method set by the government. It added that the right should be granted according to law as to turning the "slash and burn" farmland into village-owned firewood plantations or into manageable-scale forest plantations.

Respected delegates, The delegate group pointed out that all the seven points of the energy, electricity, mining and forestry sector should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and all the five points of the sector should be included in the region or state legislative lists as detailed basic principles.

The State should consider enacting a law to permit regions and states to run small-scale oil and gas industries.

The group presented a proposal to substitute the term “except big and medium electricity production and distribution under the supervision of the Union” with the term “except big electricity production and distribution under the supervision of the Union” and the term “the cutting and polishing of gems stones in the region or state” with the term “exploration, mining, trading, cutting and polishing of gems emporiums in regions and states”.

The term “village-owned fuel wood plantations” with the term “village-owned fuel wood plantations, community-owned forest plantations and private forest plantations” and the term “recreation centres, zoological gardens and botanical gardens” with the term “recreation centres, zoological gardens, botanical gardens, herbal plantations and private forest plantations including teak.” In enacting laws, the State should consider the point to permit regions and states the right to run businesses mentioned in the proposed amended terms.—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects construction of concrete drain in U San Pe Ward of Thingangyun Township on 19-2-2005 YANGON COMMAND

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects functions of Pweinthu Textile Factory Project. (News on page 2)—INDUSTRY-1

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects functions of Pweinthu Textile Factory Project. (News on page 2)—INDUSTRY-1

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects functions of Pweinthu Textile Factory Project. (News on page 2)—INDUSTRY-1
A Chinese couple visit a snow-covered park in Shanghai on 19 Feb, 2005. — Internet

**Bangladesh textile sector needs investment to stay in race**

**Dhaka, 19 Feb** — Bangladesh’s Primary Textile Sector (PTS) will require an investment worth $140 billion (taka 2.33 billion US dollars) by 2008-2009 to meet the demand of export-oriented ready made garment (RMG) sector and local consumption.

The PTS that met 54 per cent demand of local consumption and 52 per cent of export-oriented RMG in 2003-2004 fiscal year will need the investment to stay in the race among the other South Asian countries, including India and Pakistan, The Financial Express reported Friday.

Sources of the Bangladeshi Textile Mills Association said the country will be able to meet 72 per cent of local and 70 per cent of export-oriented RMG demand by 2008-2009, if the investment is made.


**Annual Arts Festival starts Hong Kong**

**Hong Kong, 19 Feb** — The Hong Kong Arts Festival 2005, held Thursday evening with Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Tung Chee-hwa as one of the officiating guests.

Organized by the Hong Kong Arts Festival Society Ltd, the event is going to be held from 17 February to 20 March. It was opened with the Polish National Opera’s Otello and will stage a total of 124 performances by 42 performing groups.

“Response has been exceptionally strong. As of today, 93,000 performance tickets have been sold, accounting for about 80 per cent of all seats and exceeding last year’s sales by 10,000 tickets during the same period, which has set a 33-year record high,” said executive director of the festival Douglas Gavier.

One of the highlights of the festival include Amber, a music theatre spectacle by the prestigious National Theatre Company of Chinese Mainland; the complete Beethoven Symphonic Cycle as performed by the Orchestra of the 18th Century, with the Gulbenkian Choir, under Frans Bruggen.

The festival was dated back to 1973. As an annual international event, it provides a focus for the best of international performing arts along with a vibrant contribution from Hong Kong arts groups, composers and writers.

**Rice prices come down in Dar-es-Salaam**

**Dar-es-Salaam, 19 Feb** — Rice prices in Dar-es-Salaam’s major markets have dropped due to increased supplies from producing areas in Tanzania.

Price indexes from the major markets in the country’s biggest city showed that wholesale rice now is sold at between 45 and 46 US dollars per kilogramme.

“Rice prices have fallen to 57.5 US dollars per kilogramme,” a spokesman said.

The delegate to the Legislative Council on March 9, will also extend Hong Kong’s jurisdiction over such acts committed on board non-Hong Kong-controlled aircraft while they are coming to land in Hong Kong, a spokesman for the Security Bureau said on Thursday.

The Aviation Security Ordinance (ASO) is the principal legislation on aviation security. The main purposes of the ASO are to prohibit acts that pose a threat to international civil aviation and to give effect to international conventions on aviation security.

The ASO mainly addresses serious offences such as hijacking and sabotage, and does not specifically cover offences involving unruly behaviour.

The proposed offences include those related to the obstruction of crew members, failure to comply with instructions given by the aircraft commander or crew members to protect the safety of the aircraft, disorderly behaviour, tampering or interfering with aircraft apparatus, equipment or systems, intoxication by alcohol, drugs or other substances and smoking and operation of electronic devices when these are prohibited.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has issued a resolution urging Contracting States to enact law and regulations to deal effectively with the problem of unruly passenger offences.

**HK to introduce bill tightening control over air passengers**

**Hong Kong, 19 Feb** — The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government will submit the Aviation Security (Amendment) Bill 2005 to the Legislative Council to strengthen control of offences committed by unruly passengers on board Hong Kong-controlled aircraft.

The bill, to be submitted to the Legislative Council on March 9, will also extend Hong Kong’s jurisdiction over such acts.

**Five blasts kill at least 35 in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 19 Feb** — A series of explosions ripped through Baghdad and a nearby city Friday, killing at least 35 people and injuring dozens on the eve of Shi’ite Islam’s most important holiday, officials said. It was the deadliest day since Iraq’s landmark elections last month.

Two Americans were killed Friday in separate attacks, adding to the number of US soldiers slain since Wednesday, the military said. Shortly afterward, a bomb exploded outside a Shi’ite mosque in Tuz Khormato, 30 miles south of the capital, killing seven people and wounding 10, doctors said on condition of anonymity.
US scientists unveil secrets of Saturn's aurora

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — A team of US astronomers said on Wednesday they have found that Saturn’s aurora behave differently than scientists have believed for the last 25 years.

Based on the data from NASA’s Cassini spacecraft and Hubble space telescope, the research group led by John Clarke, a professor at Boston University, overturned theories about how Saturn’s magnetosphere behaves and how its aurora are generated.

Their findings will be published in the February 17 issue of Nature.

By choreographing the instruments aboard the Saturn-bound Cassini spacecraft and the Hubble space telescope circling Earth to look at Saturn’s southern polar region, Clarke’s team found that the planet’s aurora are fundamentally unlike those observed on Earth or Jupiter.

Scientists had long believed Saturn’s aurora are influenced by the solar wind, like Earth’s, and assumed they are influenced by a ring of ions and charged particles encircling the planet, like Jupiter’s. But the team found that when Saturn’s aurora becomes brighter and more powerful, the ring of energy encircling the pole shrinks in diameter. By contrast, when Earth’s aurora becomes brighter, the polar region fills with light for several minutes, then dims, and the ring of light expands.

Jupiter’s aurora, in comparison, are only weakly influenced by the solar wind, becoming brighter about once a month. Saturn’s auroral displays also become brighter on the sector of the planet where night turns to day as the storms increase in intensity, unlike either of the other two planets. At certain times, Saturn’s auroral ring was more like a spiral, its ends not connected as the energy storm circled the pole.

The observations showed that Saturn’s aurora differ in character from day to day, as they do on Earth, moving around on some days and stationary on others. But compared to Earth’s auroral displays, which last only about 10 minutes, Saturn’s aurora can last days.

The observations also indicated that the sun’s magnetic field and solar wind may play a much larger role in Saturn’s aurora than previously suspected.

Hubble images show that some displays remain stationary as the planet rotates beneath, as happens on Earth, but also show that, as on Jupiter, the aurora sometimes move along with Saturn as it spins on its axis.

MNA/Xinhua

Low-income family’s cost of living rises in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 18 Feb — The consumer basket for a low-income family of six has risen marginally to 1.8 million Zimbabwe dollars (about 290 US dollars) from 1.6 million Zimbabwe dollars (250 US dollars) per month, the Herald newspaper reported Thursday.

Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ) was quoted by the local newspaper as saying that the monthly basket for basic commodities for a family of six in January this year is now pegged at 1,774,886 Zimbabwean dollars (about 286 US dollars).

Notable increases were recorded in bread and meat prices, which has forced the consumer watchdog to raise the issue with the relevant ministries, to take appropriate action against anyone found guilty of charging prices above those gazetted by the government.

“We have raised concern over the price of bread. Traditional retail outlets are selling bread at the controlled price, but tuckshops are selling above the gazetted price. Legal action will be taken against anyone found guilty of overcharging consumers.”

MNA/Xinhua

Earliest known use of diamond, sapphire by prehistoric Chinese found

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — Ancient Chinese craftsmen might have learned to use diamonds to grind and polish ceremonial stone burial axes as long as 6,000 years ago, US researchers said on Wednesday.

Researchers at Harvard University have uncovered strong evidence that the ancient Chinese used diamonds with a level of skill difficult to achieve even with modern polishing techniques.

The finding, reported in the February issue of the journal Archaeometry, places this earliest known use of diamond worldwide thousands of years earlier than the gem is known to have been used elsewhere.

Scientists had put the earliest use of diamond around 500 BC, for the earliest authors to refer what is likely diamond, Mammilus and Pliny the Elder, lived in Rome during the first century AD.

The latest work also represents the only known prehistoric use of sapphire. The stone worked into polished axes by China’s Liangzhu and Sanxingcun cultures around 4000 to 2500 BC has as its most abundant element the mineral corundum, known as ruby in its red form and sapphire in all other colors.

Most other known prehistoric artifacts were fashioned from rocks and minerals no harder than quartz. “The physics of polishing is poorly understood. It’s really more an art than a science,” said the first author Peter J. Lu. “Still, it’s absolutely remarkable that with the best polishing technologies available today, we couldn’t achieve a surface as flat and smooth as was produced 5000 years ago.”

Lu’s work may eventually yield new insights into the origins of ancient China’s Neolithic artifacts, vast quantities of finely polished jade objects.

Lu studied four ceremonial axes, ranging in size from 13 to 22 centimetres, found at the tombs of wealthy individuals. Three of these axes, dating to the Sanxingcun culture of 4000 to 3800 BC and the later Liangzhu culture, came from the Nanjing Museum in China; the fourth, discovered at a Liangzhu culture site at Zhejiang Province. — MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely
Microsoft Corp prepares to protect its Windows operating system

SEATTLE, 18 Feb—As Microsoft Corp prepares to ship new software to protect its Windows operating system, a top target for malicious programmers and hackers, the world’s largest software maker also faces another threat — the scrutiny of antitrust regulators fearing the monopolist could choke off competition.

E-Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft ties its new anti-virus software, expected out later this year, too closely to Windows or prices it steeply below anti-virus software offered by vendors such as McAfee Inc and Symantec Corp. antitrust regulators could turn their attention toward the company again.

"Aggressive entry into the established anti-virus market, especially to the extent Microsoft bundles its solution into the operating system, is almost certain to draw regulatory scrutiny, especially in the EU (European Union),” Sanford C Bernstein & Co analyst Charles Di Bona said in a recent note to clients.

Microsoft is facing pressure to deliver better ways to protect its software products, three years and three acquisitions after promising to boost the security of its software in a companywide memo by Chairman Bill Gates.

At the RSA computer security conference in San Francisco this week, Gates announced that Microsoft’s anti-spyware software, which protects computers against programs that sneak on a user’s system, will be offered for free download after the current trial period ends.

“It’s a challenging area, and new threats seem to emerge all the time,” Gates said in his speech, “but I’m optimistic that ... we will be able to mitigate the security problems.”

Microsoft has indicated it will charge users for its anti-virus software, although the company hasn’t made clear whether users would pay a regular fee or pay one on a per-incident basis.

Shares in Symantec have lost a third of their value from highs seen late last year, while McAfee’s stock is down by a quarter.

Microsoft’s massive effort in the latter half of the 1990s to build its own Web browser and displace Netscape’s Navigator sparked the US Government’s landmark antitrust lawsuit against the company. The Justice Department found that Microsoft had abused its dominant position in the operating system market and reached final settlement with the company in 2002.

“The antitrust lawsuit has absolutely changed Microsoft’s behaviour,” said Joe Wilcox, analyst at Jupiter Media.

John Thompson, chief executive of Symantec, applauded Microsoft’s steps at the security conference and said that they “are very necessary, but, in my opinion, not sufficient for large enterprises.”

Thompson said the real battleground for security software and services is in the corporate systems market, where technology managers have to grapple with multiple technologies and need help from companies like Symantec that have specialized expertise in computer security.

Aussie scientists clone cow using new method

CANNBERA, 18 Feb—A group of Australian scientists announced on Thursday they have cloned a cow using a new research method known as ‘serial nuclear transfer’ (SNT), the first time in the world cloning a cow using the technique.

The scientists who created Brandy, a healthy Holstein-Friesian calf who was born just before last Christmas, are from Monash Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne and the statistics Australia Cooperative.

When using the new method, scientists fuse nutrients from a recently fertilized egg into a cloned embryo before it is placed in the surrogate, thus enhancing remodelling of the DNA. Australian Associated Press reported.

By contrast, the regular method used to clone animals involves inserting a single donor cell into an egg — with its DNA removed — and implanting the surrounding embryo into a surrogate mother for gestation. But very few of implanted embryos survive full term pregnancies.

Head research scientist Vanessa Hall, from Monash Institute of Medical Research, said “It’s merging the nutrients of a recently fertilized egg with a cloned embryo.”

“By adding further nutrients into the cloned embryo we improve the quality of the cloned embryo,” she said.

Evidence suggests low survival rate in the regular method could be due to reprogramming problems which affect the development of the placenta, Hall said.

Although there are extra steps involved in SNT, we believe it could improve efficiencies and that larger number of healthy offspring are produced from less cloned embryos,” she said.

A Russia interested in extensive economic cooperation with Hungary

MOSCOW, 18 Feb— Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that his country is interested in more extensive economic cooperation with Hungary, Russian news agencies reported.

“We have many common interests in energy, high technology and logistics. Many Russian companies show interest in investments in the Hungarian economy, implying favourable terms for cooperation,” Putin was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency at a meeting with visiting Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany in the Kremlin.

Russia’s trade with Hungary increased appreciably in 2004, he added. “The turnover has grown 25 per cent last year and reached almost 4.5 billion dollars, while exports of Hungarian goods to Russia increased 57 per cent,” the President was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying.

Gyurcsany, for his part, said Hungary and Russia have doubled bilateral trade in the past three years and he believed that economic cooperation between the two countries will be further developed.

Britain emerges as world’s biggest mart for downloading pirated TV

LONDON, 18 Feb— Britain has emerged as the world’s biggest market for downloading pirated TV, driven by tech-savvy fans who are unwilling to wait for popular US shows such as “Desperate Housewives.”

Episodes of the espionage drama “24” show up on the popular file-sharing network BitTorrent within minutes after they air in the US, according to Envisional, and a typical episode is downloaded by about 100,000 users.

The company said that “24” is the most pirated show online, with “The Simpsons”, “The OC” and a host of sci-fi programmes including “Stargate SG-1” and “Enterprise” also popular.

Sky and other broadcasters such as Channel 4, which air large blocks of US shows, say they are monitoring the growing popularity of online TV downloads.

If the situation worsens, it may result in lower prices paid by broadcasters for shows such as “Joey”, which went to Channel Five after an intense bidding war.

For the moment no one
Italian soccer mourn death of ex-European Footballer of the Year

Rome, 19 Feb—Italian soccer on Friday mourned the death from cancer of former European Footballer of the Year Omar Sivori, who played for both Argentina and Italy.

He had been in hospital since September and died, aged 69 almost a year to the day after the death of his old Juventus teammate John Charles.

Former Juventus teammate Giampioni Boniperti told La Gazzetta dello Sport: “To see Omar play was spellbinding — one touch of the ball and then that extraordinary and deadly dribble that used to drive opponents crazy.

Sivori had class, but his greatest gift was that he could think faster than the others.”

Giacinto Facchetti, now president of Inter Milan and one of Italy's greatest ever defenders, said: “He was a great adversary, a player of immense class and character.”

Gianni Rivera, Italy's Golden Boy in the 1960s, added: “He was always cocky because he knew he was good...off the pitch, though, he was extrovert and friendly.”

1974 Sandro Mazzola, another 1960s great who was in the Italian team that lost to Brazil in the 1970 World Cup final, said: “He was my inspiration — the only player of his time who knew how to play just behind the strikers. He had infinite skill.”

Sivori made his First Division debut for River Plate in 1954 and won two Argentine championships with the club.

He played 18 times for Argentina, shining in their 1957 Copa America victory in Peru. A year later, he was transferred to Juventus, where he won Serie A titles in 1958, 1960 and 1961 and the Italian Cup in 1959 and 1960.

While at Juventus, he also won the European Footballer of the Year award in 1961.

Under the less stringent nationality rules of the time he later won nine caps for Italy, scoring eight goals, and represented the country in the 1962 World Cup in Chile.

He finished his playing career at Napoli, scoring 12 goals in 63 games, before retiring in 1968.

He returned to Argentina to coach Rosario Central and River Plate before taking charge of the national team for the 1974 World Cup qualifiers but resigned before the finals over differences with the AFA.

His famed teammate at Juventus, Welshman Charles, died on February 21 last year at the age of 72.—MNA/Reuters

Moyes believes Rooney will return to Everton

LIVERPOOL, (England), 19 Feb—David Moyes believes Wayne Rooney will return to Everton in the FA Cup on Saturday, a better player than when he left to join Manchester United.

The 19-year-old England striker makes his first return to Goodison Park since his 27-million-pound ($12.1-million-US-dollar) transfer to Old Trafford on August 4 in the fifth round tie.

“I know Wayne has been improving all the time. His age will be making him better for a start,” Everton manager Moyes told reporters on Friday.

“I didn't realise I was in such good shape,” said Isinbayeva. “I was tired going into the event but the crowd was so good and it really pushed me over the bar.”—MNA/Reuters

Haas advances into quarterfinal of Kroger St Jude ATP

RALEIGH (North Carolina), 19 Feb—Second-seeded German Tommy Haas eased into the quarterfinals of the Kroger St Jude ATP event on Thursday with a 7-6, 6-3 victory over American Kevin Kim.

Haas fired down 10 aces against his unseeded opponent to advance further than two other seeds in the men's draw, who were eliminated in contrasting style.

Third-seeded Vince Spadea was forced to retire from his match because of a shoulder injury when trailing 2-0 in the second set to France's Antony Dupuis. The Frenchman had taken the opening set 7-5.

Sixth-seeded American Mardy Fish was also knocked out, despite sending down 14 aces against compatriot Robby Ginepri.

Ginepri broke serve three times and never faced a break point in his 6-1, 7-5 victory that set up a quarterfinal showdown with top seed Andy Roddick.—MNA/Reuters

IRONHAWK}

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

French Postos, right, shields the ball from Belenenses Marco Paulo during their Portuguese League soccer match on 18 Feb, 2005 at Restelo stadium, in Lisbon.—INTERNET

Djorkaaff resumes career

HARTFORD (Connecticut), 19 Feb—Former French international forward Youri Djorkaaff resumed his career on Friday when he signed for the MetroStars of the MLS.

Djorkaaff, who turns 37 next month, was released last month by Blackburn Rovers of the English Premier League after making just three appearances for the club, the last of which was against Chelsea last October.

The MetroStars open their tenth 10th Major League Soccer season on April 2 when they host expansion club Real Salt Lake. "We're thrilled to bring a player of this calibre, in Youri Djorkaaff, to the MetroStars and our fans," said MetroStars President and General Manager Nick Sakiewicz. "With Youri, we now have an additional seasoned veteran who is experienced at winning championships.”

Djorkaaff, whose father Jean made 48 appearances for France and played in the World Cup finals in 1966 in England, played 82 times for France and scored 28 goals. He was in their World Cup winning team in 1998 and European Championship winning side two years later.

He turned professional in 1984 with lower division Grenoble where he played for five seasons before joining Strasbourg. In 1991, he joined AS Monaco, helping the team win the French Cup that season. In 1994, he was the league's top scorer with 20 goals.

Djorkaaff helped Paris Saint-Germain win the UEFA Cup in 1996 before signing with Inter Milan where he led the team to victory in the UEFA Cup in 1998.—MNA/Reuters

Isinbayeva sets new world indoor record

LONDON, 19 Feb—Russian Olympic champion Yelena Isinbayeva broke her own world indoor record on women's pole vault set last Saturday after vaulting 4.88 meters on Friday.

Isinbayeva, who set eight world records outdoor and indoor last year, vaulted the record-breaking height on her second attempt at the Birmingham indoor meeting and won 30,000 US dollars after her compatriot Svetlana Feofanova, the world champion, failed three times at 4.79 metres.

Last Saturday Isinbayeva vaulted 4.87 metres at the Seregi Bubka meeting in Donetsk, Ukraine, in her first competition of the season.

"But he also has more experience and more confidence as he continues in his career. He was an excellent player when he was here but I am sure he has improved since he left us. It's hard to deal with good players coming back here and Wayne is hard to deal with because he is a very good player".

Moyes believes Everton's glue-pot pitch and United's midweek Champions League first knockout round, first leg clash with AC Milan give his side the chance to spring a surprise cup win.

"It is a very poor pitch and we have to use that to our advantage if we can. But the problem is United are in better form in the Premiership than anyone else at the moment.

"But that is something they have been doing for many years. They come good at this time of the season," Moyes added.—MNA/Reuters

ACROSS

7 Old Greek coin
8 Well-being
10 Estimation
11 Russian spirit
12 Number of Muses
13 Comedy
17 Blemish
18 Staunton
22 Ground corn
23 Musical instrument
24 Feeble
25 Horror struck

DOWN

1 Amaze
2 Brave
3 Lukewarm
4 Ardent
5 Scottish river
6 Bundle of arrow
9 Disgusted
14 Grazing land
15 Temporary
16 expedient (4-3)
18 Copy
19 Once more
20 An instant
21 Protuberance

Putra Harrington, of Ireland, watched his shot at 10th hole during the Round Two of the Carlsberg Malaysian Open at the Saujana Golf and Country Club in Subang, Malaysia on 18 Feb, 2005.—INTERNET

MCNA/Reuters
Drug dealers sentenced

YANGON, 19 Feb — Acting on information, a combined team comprising Yagon Special Anti-drug Squad and Shweyeptha Police Force searched Myint Tun (a) Tun Myint at the tea shop on Seelmu Street in Shweyeptha Township and seized 40.82 gm of marijuana on 18 February. In connection with the case, action was taken against Myint Tun (a) Tun Myint, son of U Mya Han of Shweyeptha Township under Section 15(19)(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Shweyeptha Police Station. Yagon West District Court, on 18 December 2004, sentenced the man to 15 years’ imprisonment under Section 15(19)(A) and 20 years under Section 19 (A). Similarly, a combined team comprising Taunggyi Special Anti-Drug Squad and Pintaya Police Force, acting tip-off, searched the house of U Tun Chein of Taman village and seized 4.0825 kilo of marijuana in his possession on 6 September 2004. Concerning the case, action was taken against Tun Chein, son of U Tum Aye of Taman village under Section 15(16)(C)/19(A) by Pintaya Police Station. Taunggyi District Court, on 27 December 2004, sentenced the man to 10 years imprisonment under Section of 16(D) and 17 years under Section of 19(A). A similar team, acting on tip-off, searched the Nickel Polishing and Chemical shop in Aungmyathasan Township, Mandalay and arrested U Ni Weng with 1323.13 liters of sulphuric acid, 91.81 liters of hydrochloric acid and 1120 liters of nitric acid on 3 January 2005. Mandalay Police Station No 5 filed a law-suit against U Ni Weng, son of U Kan Maung of Chanayethasan Township under Section 16(B).

MNA

WEATHER

Saturday, 19 February, 2005
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours
MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and Upper Sagra Division and weather has been generally fair in the remaining areas. The noteworty amount of rainfall was Putoa (0.04) inch. Night temperatures were (4°C) below normal in Taninathayi Division, (5°C) to (6°C) above normal in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, (7°C) above normal in Upper Sagra Division, (12°C) above normal in Eastern Shan State and (3°C) below normal in Bago and Ayeyarwady Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant night tempera-tures were (4°C) in Namsam. (7°C) in Lashio and Heho, each. Maximum temperature on 18-2-2005 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 19-2-2005 was 64°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-2-2005 was 91%. Total sunshine hours on 18-2-2005 was (7.3) hours approx. Rainfalls on 19-2-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from West at (23:30) hours MST on 19-2-2005.

Bay inference: Weather is generally fair in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-2-2005: Possibility of Isolated light rain in Kachin and Chin State, Upper Sagra Divisions and weather will be generally fair in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Slight decrease of night temperatures are likely in southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-2-2005: Fair weather.

Robust economy required for nation as its economy is serving as main link connecting political and social sectors

YANGON, 19 Feb — On behalf of the Panel of Chairmen, Alternate Chairman U Mya Aye of the Delegates of Peasants presented the panel of chairmen’s collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on the economic sector at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaungpin Monastery in Hmawby Town-ship, Yangon Division, yesterday. The following is a translation of presentation made by U Mya Aye.

Respected delegates,

In connection with the basic principles to be laid down for the economic sector relevant to the sharing of legislative power that shall be included in writing the State constitution, I will continue to present the panel of chairmen’s collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by some delegate groups to the National Convention and from those by certain delegates to the National Convention.

Respected delegates,

The Work Committee Chairman made a clarification concerning the economic sector at the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention on 19 May 2004. He said: “I am now going to explain the economic sector. The State, with the aim of ensuring the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, is making endeavours for the economic sector, laying down the economic objectives and long-term and short-term plans, and making systematic and coordinated efforts.

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

Concerning the economy, the National Convention has also laid down the following principles to be formulated as the basis:

1. The State economic system shall be market-oriented economic system;

(See page 7)