YANGON, 20 Feb — At the invitation of the President of the Republic of the Philippines Her Excellency Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Soe Win and party left here by special flight this morning to pay an official visit to the Republic of the Philippines.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, the ministers, senior military officers, the Chargés d’Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines Mr Pabloito A Mendoza and embassy staff and heads of departments concerned.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win was accompanied by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun and heads of departments.

INSIDE

Thus, those relying on external elements, holding with negative views, and seeking all possible ways and means to devastate the National Convention and those politicians opposing the National Convention should give priority to national interests after taking lessons from their past misdeeds.

They also need to discard making demands for two-person or three-person private meetings. And it is high time they discarded the policy with which they are attempting to copy western democracy directly.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Monday, 21 February, 2005

Exert harmonious efforts for promotion of education standard

The State Peace and Development Council has laid down the 12 political, economic and social objectives and is implementing them so that the country can keep abreast of the global community.

In so doing, the relevant long-term projects have been laid down and are being implemented in education, health, technological, agricultural, livestock breeding, industrial, mining, electric power and energy sectors with the aim of serving the national interest.

At the knowledge age when education is overwhelming other sectors, the national education promotion programmes have been adopted and are being implemented. Nowadays, the country has been complete to a certain extent with national education infrastructures capable of creating highly-qualified human resources.

The basic education sector is the greatest and the most basic part in national education promotion process and it is also a wide educational infrastructure that covered the far-flung areas. The Special Refresher Course No 56 for Basic Education Teachers concluded at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township on 19 February morning with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the characteristic of today’s national education is to train and nurture students to be well-versed in literary knowledge of international level and imbued with the sense of serving the interest of the State and the people and with the strength to engage in regional development.

Plans for development of education sector is being implemented phase by phase along with projects for development of border areas and national races, the 24 development zones project and the five rural development tasks being implemented by the government. The teachers who are practically discharging education tasks in rural areas including border areas are also to engage in regional development tasks and in promoting the education standard of rural regions.

This being the case, the teachers are urged to try hard to be fully equipped with the spirit, strength and qualification to serve the interests of the State and the people while striving for promotion of education standard of new generation youths.

Industry-1 minister inspects development tasks in Magway

YANGON, 20 Feb — Accompanied by officials, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung arrived at Dipinkaya Monastery in Natmauk Township, Magway Division, on 18 February afternoon and donated offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandavamsa. In the evening, the Secretariat Member met with executives of Natmauk Township USDA and organizations at the Township USDA Office. After hearing reports on organizational tasks in respective regions, realization of five rural development tasks and future plans, the Secretariat Member attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the minister proceeded to Myothit Township. He met with organizers of township and village USDA members and gave necessary instructions. On arrival at Thiklua Thanhbada Laytha Monastery in Myothit Township, he donated alms to the Sayadaws.

On 19 February morning, the Secretariat Member inspected the progress of constructing the new school building of BEMS in Kwathat Ward. Next, the Secretariat Member attended the ceremonies of presenting USDA membership applications held at Chaukgya and Myolulin villages. At Chaukgya village, he accepted 3,986 application forms for USDA membership. At Myolulin village, the Secretariat Member accepted 3,471 membership applications and gave instructions on participation of USDA members in the regional development tasks.

Indagaw Industrial Region inspected

INDAGAW — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspected Research and Development Centre of Ministry of Industry-2 in Indagaw Industrial Region. — INDUSTRY-2

Medical Seminar held

YANGON, 20 Feb — Jointly-organized by Obstetricists and Gynaecologists Society of Myanmar Medical Association and Mo Asia Company Ltd - Dumex, a medical seminar was held at Traders Hotel here this morning. After giving an opening speech, the Managing Director of Mo Asia Company Ltd - Dumex presented K 150,000 each for MMA and the society to Secretary of MMA Prof Dr S Kyaw Hla and Chairperson of OGS Prof Dr Khin Mi Mi Lwin.

Then, they thanked for donations.

During the seminar, Dr Tan Sian Ann of Mount Elizabeth Hospital of Singapore talked on ‘Infertility and fetal monitoring’. Associate Prof Dr Khin Htar Yi of Yangon Central Women’s Hospital on ‘Sonographic Evaluation of Tubal Patency’ in Female Infertility and Ms Katrina C Venus of EAC-Singapore on ‘Mamil Mama-Shaping Healthy Mother and Baby’.

The Medical Seminar organized by Obstetricists and Gynaecologists Society and Mo Asia Co Ltd-Dumex in progress at Traders Hotel. — MNA

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspects Research and Development Centre of Ministry of Industry-2 in Indagaw Industrial Region. — INDUSTRY-2

People’s Desire

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

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 Feb — Malaysia and the Netherlands Friday urged coming World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting to achieve substantive results.

The call was made at a meeting between visiting Netherlands Economic Affairs Minister Laurens Jan Brinkhorst and Malaysian Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah here.

Both sides stressed the importance of achieving substantive results at the sixth ministerial conference to be held in December 2005 in Hong Kong, China to ensure the conclusion of the Doha Round by 2006, Ahmad Husni said at a Press conference after the meeting.

He said, both sides acknowledged the need for a framework on global agriculture trade.

During the meeting, both sides also exchanged views on the progress made under the World Trade Organization (WTO), Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative (TREATI) and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), with a view to further strengthen economic relations between ASEAN and the European Union (EU), he said.

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), now grouping 10 states in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost the regional cooperation.

The Malaysian official also said that an agriculture-based bank from the Netherlands had expressed its interest to set up a branch in Malaysia.

The Netherlands minister said his country was keen to be involved in agriculture-based investments in Malaysia.

Malaysia's total trade with the Netherlands in 2004 amounted to 19.1 billion ringgit (5.02 billion US dollars) with exports totalling 15.7 billion ringgit (4.13 billion US dollars) and imports 3.4 billion ringgit (904.73 million US dollars).

Malaysia's major exports were transistors and valves, processing equipment, palm oil and telecommunication equipment.

Major imports from the Netherlands were gold, transistors and valves, edible products and machinery parts.

From January to November 2004, a total of nine investment projects in the manufacturing sector worth 99 million ringgit (26.05 million US dollars) from the Netherlands were also approved.

—— MNA/Xinhua

China to build undersea tunnel in Xiamen

XIAMEN, 19 Feb — The first undersea tunnel on the Chinese mainland is expected to begin construction this May in Xiamen, east China's Fujian Province, and is scheduled to be completed by 2010, according to the municipal development and reform commission.

A feasibility report of the tunnel, called the East Passage Project, has been approved by the State Development and Reform Commission earlier this February.

The tunnel will connect the island of Xiamen and the neighbouring Mainland. It will be about nine kilometres long and 70 metres underwater, and will cost 3.25 billion yuan (391.5 million US dollars), the commission said.

The tunnel will have six lanes and a top speed of 80 kilometres per hour. Each ends will connect to an expressway.

The tunnel project will be the third passage linking the island of Xiamen with the Mainland, joining Xiamen Bridge and Hacang Bridge.

Upon completion, the tunnel is expected to divert about 30 per cent of the traffic flow from the two bridges, the commission said.

The feasibility study was approved in April by experts who checked the bridge and tunnel construction, geology, oceanology, hydrology and economics. The experts said construction of a tunnel is the best choice, as it will protect the environment and resources.

A consortium headed by the Bank of China and composed of the Agricultural Bank of China, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and State Development Bank has offered loans totalling 2.6 billion yuan (313.2 million US dollars) for the tunnel project, said the director of the city's development and reform commission.

—— MNA/Xinhua

Indian oil giant to invest in Bangladesh steel sector

DHAKA, 19 Feb — Essar Group, a reputed Indian steel and oil giant, has shown interest to invest 1.0 billion US dollars in Bangladesh.

The group's business development director, Jagadeesh M. Mehta, met Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Board of Investment (BoI) Mahmudur Rahman Thursday here and made the proposal to invest in the steel and power generation sector.

A senior BoI official was quoted as saying that the Indian group expressed its willingness to build a 450-megawatt power plant in the country.

The group's another area of interest is steel, as it is one of the biggest manufacturers of cold-rolled and galvanizing steel.

The latest investment proposal is second by an Indian company after TATA that has already signed an expression of interest with the Bangladesh Government for investment of 2.0 billion dollars in power, steel and fertilizers.

—— MNA/Xinhua

BOJ says Japan's economy remains on recovery track

TOKYO, 19 Feb — The Bank of Japan on Thursday left its economic assessment unchanged for the second straight month, saying the nation's economy remains on a recovery track despite weakening production.

Japan's economy continues on a recovery trend, although there seem to be somewhat weak movements, mainly in production, the central bank said in its February report on recent economic and financial developments.

The BOJ presented the view although government data showed Wednesday that the economy shrank a real 0.1 per cent in the October-December period from the previous quarter for the third straight quarterly contraction.

Looking ahead, the BOJ also projected an upbeat outlook for the world's second-largest economy, saying, “Japan's economy is expected to continue to recover, spurred by pickups in exports and production.”

Exports and production are expected to gather steam as overseas economies and domestic demand are likely to keep increasing, according to the report.

—— MNA/Xinhua

Singapore wants to promote Indonesian, Malaysian languages

SINGAPORE, 19 Feb — Singapore wants to promote the Indonesian and Malaysian languages in the predominantly ethnic Chinese city-state to strengthen ties with its Malay-Muslim neighbours, the country's Education Ministry said on Friday.

The affluent island's population of 4.2 million is a polyglot community of ethnic Chinese, Malays and Indians and there are four official languages — English, Mandarin Chinese, bahasa Malay and Tamil.

An Education Ministry spokeswoman said the government was looking to launch the programme in two years. Singapore's founding Premier Lee Kuan Yew said on Thursday the tiny city-state's language deficiency was highlighted during Singapore's military deployment to help Indonesia after last year's tsunami disaster hit its northern Aceh Province.

Lee, who as “Minister Mentor” holds the third most powerful post in the Cabinet, said students should learn to understand, speak and read basic bahasa — or "mother tongue" in Malaysian and Indonesian. “We learnt from our experience in Aceh that we need more Singaporeans who can speak bahasa, either bahasa Malaysia or bahasa Indonesia,” he said.

—— MNA/Xinhua

A child runs through red chilli peppers drying in the streets of Bhaktapur, some 20kms east of Kathmandu, Nepal on 18 Feb, 2005.

—— INTERNET

Jordan's Formula One driver Naraim Karthikeyan from India drives his car during a training session at Montmelo racetrack in Barcelona, Spain, on 18 Feb, 2005.

—— INTERNET
Russia, Georgia agree to work on idiographic issues

MOSCOW, 19 Feb — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Georgian Foreign Minister Salome Zourabichvili in their negotiations in Tbilisi on Friday failed to sign an agreement but agreed to set up groups of experts working on six precise issues, the Internet news agency reported.

After the negotiations Zourabichvili told a joint Press conference that the precise issues include the preparation of a framework agreement between the two countries, the withdrawal of Russian military bases, simplifying the visa regime and creating the concept of a joint counter-terrorism centre.

Zourabichvili told reporters that she and Lavrov will report on the progress of the working groups to their presidents in two months.

She thought the current level of Russian-Georgian relations does not correspond to their potential. Lavrov, for his part, said Russia and Georgia have to intensify negotiations on the dates of the withdrawal of Russian bases from Georgia.

In his opinion “there are agreements by which the Russian bases must be withdrawn. Once there is such an agreement, it has to be complied with.”

Lavrov said Moscow attaches great significance to the improvement of confidence between the parties to the Georgian-South Ossetian and Georgian-Abkhaz conflicts.

He confirmed that Russia is the principal country providing peacekeepers for Abkhazia and taking part in the activities of the Joint Peacekeeping Forces in the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict zone.

“But it is the (conflict) parties themselves that need to reach a final settlement,” he emphasized.

Moscow is still concerned over the possibility of terrorists being present in the Pankisi Gorge in Georgia, Lavrov noted. “The fact that terrorists may still be there concerns us,” he said. Meanwhile, in response to the question about Moscow’s position on monitoring the common border of the two countries, the Russian minister said that Moscow thinks the monitoring at certain sectors of the Russian-Georgian border has no use. — MNA/Xinhua

Over 6 million people cross China’s borders during holiday

BEIJING, 19 Feb — More than 6 million people crossed China’s borders during this week-long Spring Festival holiday, representing a 12-per-cent increase year-on-year, the Ministry of Public Security said on Thursday.

According to incomplete statistics, China saw more than 5,000 airline flights crossing the borders from February 8 to 15, up nearly 10 per cent over a year earlier. Exit-entry travels by ship, train and bus also rose to some degree.

The Shenzhen Port alone reported 3.48 million exits and entries in the eight days, an increase of 21.5 per cent year-on-year. The number peaked on February 11 at 500,000.

The Gongbei Port in Zhuhai, a city in south China’s Guangdong Province, also recorded more than 1.53 million cross-border travelers, with the average daily passenger flow of up to 200,000 people.

The two sides of the Taiwan Straits carried their first round-trip non-stop charter flights in 56 years during this Spring Festival. To date, charter flights have carried more than 10,000 passengers across the straits.

— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese scientists will test new vaccine against bird flu virus

HANOI, 19 Feb — Vietnamese scientists will conduct human tests of a new vaccine against the deadly bird flu virus which has claimed 13 lives in recent weeks, state media reported on Friday.

The tests would follow successful results from initial tests on chicken and mice, which produced antibodies, the Tuoi Tre newspaper quoted the National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology as saying.

Doctor Hoang Thuy Nguyen, head of the group searching for a vaccine against the H5N1 virus which has killed 45 people altogether since arriving in Asia in late 2003, told Reuters early this month monkeys had also been tested.

On Friday, state newspapers said those results would be available in 10 days, Friday’s state media said. Vietnam said this week it may slaughter poultry in its big cities in another tough action in the war against the avian virus that has spread to more than half its 64 provinces and cities since re-emerging in December.

However, the virus had caused no new poultry infections in poultry in nine of the affected provinces over the last three weeks, officials said.

They also noted that no new human infection had been reported in the past week and all bird flu patients had been discharged.

In early February, Chinese researchers said they had developed a bird flu vaccine for poultry and mammals that could fend off the deadly virus and help stop its spread, Chinese state media reported.

On Friday, an international team of doctors said the bird flu virus can produce a deadly encephalitis, diarrhoea and other symptoms that do not like the classic respiratory disease. — MNA/Reuters

People check job offers at a public employment office in Tokyo recently. — INTERNET

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On Friday, an international team of doctors said the bird flu virus can produce a deadly encephalitis, diarrhoea and other symptoms that do not like the classic respiratory disease. — MNA/Reuters

People check job offers at a public employment office in Tokyo recently. — INTERNET
Swedish Royal couple begins state visit to Thailand

BANGKOK, 18 Feb — Sweden’s King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia arrived here Thursday morning to begin their four-day state visit to Thailand, the official Thai News Agency (TNA) reported.

At the invitation of the King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit, the Swedish royal couple will have an audience with Thailand’s King and Queen on Tuesday evening at the Royal Palace in the country’s southern resort province of Prachuap Khiri Khan, some 300 kilometres south of Bangkok.

They will express thanks to the kingdom for its help to its nationals caught in the December 26 tsunami.

On Friday, the Swedish guests will visit disaster-affected areas in Thailand’s southern provinces of Phuket and Phangnga.

As many as 20,000 Swedes were holidaying in the Indian Ocean region, mainly in Thailand, when the killer waves struck. MNA/Xinhua

Serbian President vows to stick to one-China policy

BELGRADE, 19 Feb — Serbian President Boris Tadic, who is due to start an official visit to China on February 20-24, said here on Thursday that Belgrade will adhere to the one-China policy.

Tadic said in a written interview with Chinese reporters in Belgrade that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China’s territory and the government of the People’s Republic of China is China’s only legitimate government.

He said that the Chinese Government’s proposal to solve the Taiwan issue will help maintain regional stability.

Tadic said that although China is geographically distant from Serbia and Montenegro, the former is one of the latter’s most important strategic partners.

The President said that China has insisted the Balkan crisis be solved impartially, and the government of Serbia and Montenegro values China’s stance on the issue. He expressed his belief that his coming visit will strengthen the traditional friendship between the two countries and peoples.

As to the domestic situation, Tadic said that although Serbia has gradually stepped out of the political and social crisis engendered by the international economic embargo and the regional war, it still has difficulties in achieving economic and political stability. MNA/Xinhua

India, Austria sign agreements to enhance cooperation

NEW DELHI, 18 Feb — India and Austria signed Thursday two agreements to enhance cooperation in the health sector and held wide-ranging talks to strengthen ties in the fields of economy, science and technology.

The agreements were signed after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held parleys with Austrian President Heinz Fischer, who arrived here Wednesday night on a six-day visit to India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

He is the first Austrian President to pay a state visit to this country.

“This visit is quite significant and important,” PTI quoted Fischer as saying, after being accorded the ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Presidential Palace.

The agreement on infrastructure-cooperation in the health sector was signed by Health Minister Ambumani Ramadoss and Austrian Minister of Economic Affairs Martin Bartenstein.

A Memorandum of Understanding for development of cooperation between Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education, Chandigarh, and Medical University of Innsbruck was inked by their chiefs. MNA/Xinhua

Mexico rejects CIA comments on potential instability

MEXICO CITY, 18 Feb—Mexican Interior Minister Santiago Creel Miranda on Thursday rebuffed a brief from the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which indicated that several Latin American countries, including Mexico, are “potentially” unstable.

“The analysis made by the CIA is false. It is regrettable an agency of a foreign government is addressing Mexican matters. It is unacceptable,” Creel told reporters. “We know the CIA often makes mistakes”.

The comments resulted from a brief of CIA Director Porter Goss to Wednesday which said Venezuela, Colombia, Haiti, Cuba and Mexico are potentially unstable.

“Campaigning for the 2006 presidential election in Mexico is likely to stall progress on fiscal, labour and energy reform,” Goss said before the US Senate’s Select Committee on Intelligence.

In response, Creel said it is an electoral competition rather than a conflict as the CIA said. “Perhaps there is a mistake in translation, I don’t know,” he added.

Crepel is considered a possible candidate of the ruling National Action Party in Mexico’s presidential race next year. MNA/Xinhua

Seroquel given to Alzheimer’s patients actually worsens illness

LONDON, 18 Feb — An antipsychotic drug frequently given to Alzheimer’s patients actually worsens their illness, British researchers said on Friday.

Patients given AstraZeneca Plc’s Seroquel had a marked deterioration in memory, and other higher brain functions compared to those on placebo, according to Professor Clive Ballard of the Institute of Psychiatry and colleagues.

AstraZeneca, Europe’s third largest drugmaker, disputed the findings.

Drugs such as Seroquel, which was originally developed to tackle schizophrenia, are increasingly used to treat the personality changes and aggression often associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

They are not approved by regulators for dementia but are often prescribed by doctors on an “off-label” basis for patients who develop serious behavioural problems.

In one form or another, antipsychotics are used in up to 45 per cent of British nursing homes, experts estimate.

“It’s a big potential threat to patient health,” Ballard told Reuters.

There have been concerns that the two most commonly used antipsychotics, Eli Lilly and Co’s Zyprexa and Johnson & Johnson’s Risperdal, may increase the risk of stroke — something British healthcare regulators warned about last year.

But, writing in the British Medical Journal, Ballard said Seroquel was not a viable alternative.

His team studied 93 patients with dementia in the northeast of England over six months and found those taking Seroquel experienced a doubling in cognitive decline compared with patients given a dummy pill.

Those taking another antipsychotic in the trial, Novartis AG’s Exelon, showed no worsening of their illness — but no improvement above the placebo group.

AstraZeneca said it remained confident of Seroquel’s safety and efficacy. MNA/Reuters
National Convention on its way with five characteristics

Aung Moe San

It is required to avert confrontation and overcome alien instigations and interventions to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the State’s seven-point Road Map through national solidarity for enabling the mother country to be free from a diversity of adversities and crises and to stand tall among the world nations. According to the socio-science, the best way to know the truth is taking lessons from own mistakes and errors through experiencing bitter experiences. So, the people are to take valuable lessons from historic bitter experiences for national reconsolidation.

In the post-independence period, the nation made an attempt to hold a national convention to ensure national reconsolidation. But, it failed to accomplish the schedule due to various reasons. In 1960, leader of Pa-Hta-Sa Government U Nu persuaded the people to hold a national convention. BCP (Red Flag) leader Thakin Soe, who attended the peace-negotiation meeting with the Revolutionary Council Government, presented his idea to hold a national convention at a press conference.

Now, the Tatmadaw Government held the National Convention together with those representing the national races and people from all strata, intellectuals and intelligentsia, persons well-versed with political, military, economic, management and legal affairs, those who returned to the legal fold, and delegates from eight walks of life, totalling 1,088. Now, altogether 1,081 delegates are representing the entire nation and people at the National Convention. Out of the national conventions held in the nation, the one under way now is represented by the most variety of delegates of national races. And it will lay down basic detailed guidelines for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy in conformity with the State’s seven-point Road Map.

It was followed by foreign instigations, top-sided pressure and economic sanctions on the nation. However, the Tatmadaw Government managed to make a huge headway with national-building tasks through mutual understanding in collaboration with the remaining national forces and the people. And it is now implementing the first step of the Road Map — the convening of the National Convention with the delegates from all walks of life for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy in the nation. The five characteristics of the National Convention are as follows:

(1) It is the first National Convention after post-independence period held on a grand scale with delegates representing the entire national people.
(2) It is the very first plenary meeting held with a variety of national races, and delegates from all walks of life including intellectuals and intelligentsia.
(3) It is a meeting at which delegates of national races are representing the entire people based on mutual understanding.
(4) It is in the process for the emergence of an enduring State Constitution necessary for national reconsolidation and building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation at a time when the 17 national armed groups, that returned to the legal fold, are joining hands with the government.
(5) It is the National Convention that takes enough time and being held in accord with the five objectives in the interests of the nation.

Thus, those relying on external elements, holding with negative views, and seeking all possible ways and means to devastate the National Convention and those politicians opposing the National Convention should give priority to national interests after taking lessons from their past mistakes.

They also need to discard making demands for bipartisan or tripartite talks. And it is high time they discarded the policy with which they are attempting to copy western democracy directly. Now the 17 national armed forces, that returned the legal fold, are participating in the nation-building endeavours. It is indeed a tangible proof that the Tatmadaw Government, which is building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation through the 12 objectives and the market-oriented economic system, has achieved unprecedented success in national reconsolidation.

For example, there will be no confrontation, but positive relation in a family full of mutual understanding.

Some eastern European Socialist nations once tried to immediately introduce democracy at home without any mutual understanding, resulting in complete collapse following fierce bloody conflicts alongside great difficulties and adversities faced by respective peoples. It was a very well-known event from which the entire national people should take a valuable lesson in endeavouring to introduce democracy at home. The Tatmadaw Government that had to assume State duties unavoidably in 1988 organized the multi-party democracy election in 1990. But the drive was delayed due to the fact that some political parties failed to give priority to mutual understanding essential for national reconsolidation.

It was followed by foreign instigations, top-sided pressure and economic sanctions on the nation. However, the Tatmadaw Government managed to make a huge headway with national-building tasks through mutual understanding in collaboration with the remaining national forces and the people. And it is now implementing the first step of the Road Map — the convening of the National Convention with the delegates from all walks of life for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy in the nation. The five characteristics of the National Convention are as follows:

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Thus, those relying on external elements, holding with negative views, and seeking all possible ways and means to devastate the National Convention and those politicians opposing the National Convention should give priority to national interests after taking lessons from their past mistakes.

They also need to discard making demands for bipartisan or tripartite talks. And it is high time they discarded the policy with which they are attempting to copy western democracy directly. Now the 17 national armed forces, that returned the legal fold, are participating in the nation-building endeavors. It is indeed a tangible proof that the Tatmadaw Government, which is building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation through the 12 objectives and the market-oriented economic system, has achieved unprecedented success in national reconsolidation. It has been able to organize such magnificent National Convention that previous governments had not afforded. In addition, it has been able to bring appreciable progress to the nation.

The entire national people are therefore exorted to be harmonious in contributing towards the undertakings for successful completion of the National Convention that is on its way with the five characteristics for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democracy in conformity with the State’s seven-step Road Map. (Translation: MS)

Myanmar beat Thai in International Sepaktakraw C’ship

YANGON, 20 Feb — The World Series International Sepaktakraw Championship-2005 (Myanmar) hosted by the Union of Myanmar was opened at the National Indoor Stadium-1 in Thangayun Township here this morning.

Myanmar (B) team beat Thai team 2-1 in the Men’s double regu event in the Group B And, Malaysian team and Myanmar (B) team beat Korean team 2-0 each.

In the Group A, Myanmar (A) team beat the Philippines team 2-0; Singaporean team and Myanmar (A) teams won over Pakistan 2-0 each.

In the women’s double regu event, Thai team beat Korean 2-0; Myanmar (B) team defeated the Philippines 2-0; Myanmar (A) team won over Japan team 2-0; Thai team beat Myanmar (B) team 2-0; and Korean team was defeated 2-0 by Myanmar (A) team.

Among the spectators were Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of the Committee for Ensuring Success of Myanmar Sports Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, presidents and officials of Myanmar sports federations, the President of International Sepaktakraw Federation, President of Myanmar Sepaktakraw Federation U Chit Khaing and officials. — MNA

Information Deputy Minister inspects TV retransmission station in Lashio

YANGON, 20 Feb — Together with North-East Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Director U Tun Min of Information and Public Relations Department (Head Office) and officials, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein arrived at TV Retransmission Station of Myanmar Radio and Television in Lashio, Shan State (North), on 18 February and they were welcomed by Senior Engineer U Sein Thaung and officials.

The Deputy Minister inspected the station and heard the reports on retransmission of MRTV programmes to 15 miles radius of surrounding region. Afterwards, the Deputy Minister gave necessary instructions. Next, the Deputy Minister inspected sub-printing house of the News and Periodicals Enterprise in Lashio. After hearing reports submitted to him, the Deputy Minister attended to the needs. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
Areas in far corners of nation need regional arrangements to improve their transport sector

YANGON, 20 Feb — On behalf of the Panel of Chairmen, member of the Panel of the Alternate Chairmen U Tun Aung Chein of Other Invited Persons presented the panel of chairmen’s collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on the transportation sector at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 18 February.

The following is a translation of presentation made by U Tun Aung Chein.

Of the five proposed papers submitted by the delegate group of representatives-elect, which is one of the eight delegate groups to the National Convention, the proposed papers of the National Unity Party and the Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization have been presented by the parties, which are members of the delegate group of political parties. In like manner, it is said that other delegates concerned submitted their proposals.

Representative-elect Dr Hmu Huan of Thantlang Township constituency in Chin State, and Representative-elect U Aung Thein of Ywaung Township constituency in Shan State said that it is appropriate to put the 14 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman on the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles and the three points explained by the Chairman should be put on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Representative-elect U Tin Win of Kyakklat Township constituency-2, U Thein Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township constituency-1, U Hla Soe of Minbu Township constituency-2, U Mya Hlaing of Twantay Township constituency-2, U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township constituency-1 and U Tin Tun Maung of Mingaladon Township constituency-2 said that they see the Work Committee Chairman’s clarifications concerning the industrial, transport and communication and social sectors as comprehensive and fair for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, region and state hluttaws and self-administered zones.

National race delegates group said that the 14 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman should be included on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Areas in the far corners of the nation need regional arrangements to improve their transport sector. Thus, in enacting laws, the Pyidaungsu Government should consider giving rights to regions and states to supervise marine transport and road transport.

Peasant delegate group said that the Government has been making arrangements for the development and advancement of the transport and communication sector in many aspects. Thus, the 14 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman should be put on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.

As a separate suggestion, the group said that ICT has become a global major industry covering various sectors, and an essential part of man’s daily life. The government has been striving to develop ICT till becoming the nation’s major industry. Thus, ICT laws will have to be enacted as and when necessary. As the ICT is advancing at an alarming rate in the world, amendments should be made and endorsement added to the law to make it always in line with the advancing times. Moreover the law should be in conformity with those of the regional and global countries. Thus, enacting of uninform laws concerning the ICT in the nation should be taken into account.

State service personnel delegate group said that the 14 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman should be put on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.

As a separate suggestion, the group said that ICT has become a global major industry covering various sectors, and an essential part of man’s daily life. The government has been striving to develop ICT till becoming the nation’s major industry. Thus, ICT laws will have to be enacted as and when necessary. As the ICT is advancing at an alarming rate in the world, amendments should be made and endorsement added to the law to make it always in line with the advancing times. Moreover the law should be in conformity with those of the regional and global countries. Thus, enacting of uninform laws concerning the ICT in the nation should be taken into account.

The State has been developing the towns, villages and housing projects for the nation to meet the social indicators issued by the UN bodies. It is also developing Yangon to have characteristics of a modern metropolis, setting up industrial zones and building high-rise apartments and modern residents. Arrangements are under way to enact the Condominium Law. The sector concerning the high-rise buildings and advanced residences should be put on the Union legislative list. The term “high-rise buildings and advanced residences” should be added as the No 15 point to the 14 points of the transport and communication sector to be put on the Union legislative list. Other invited persons delegate group said that the 14 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman should be put on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.

The group gave a proposal, saying that if appropriate the following points should be added to the sectors to be included in the region or state legislative list:

1. Inland Water Transport
2. Maintenance of waterways
3. Water resources and river systems improvement
4. Ship building, repair and maintenance
5. Systematic repair of private and cooperative inland water transport services
6. Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services
7. TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services.

MNA
Enforcement and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention presented programmes for National Convention delegates at the open air theatre in Nyaungshapin Camp, Hmawby Township.

Yesterday evening, teachers and students of the University of Culture (Yangon) presented songs and dances.

Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Secretary of the commission for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, Vice-Chairman of National Convention Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung and members, Chairman of National Convention Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen of various sub-committees, officials and the National Convention delegates enjoyed the performances.

Myanma saingwaing and modern music band and teachers and students of the University of Culture (Yangon) staged variety of dances. Assistant lecturer Daw Maw Maw Sein of the University of Culture (Yangon) presented coloured glass ball dance of Myanmar people.

Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Lt-Gen Thein Sein and National Convention delegate President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint presented cash award to teachers and students of the University of Culture (Yangon).

Next, Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party cordially greeted the audience delegates and the performers. — MNA

Standardization of weighing systems, copyrights,…

(From page 16)

4. Standardization of weights and measures.
5. Intellectual properties such as copyrights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs.

“Hence, the delegates are to discuss and make suggestions on whether to formulate detailed basic principles to include in the Region or State Legislative list to enact laws in connection with

1. Industries other than those designated to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu level,
2. Cottage industries, which should be included under the industrial sector.”

As regards this clarification, the National Unity Party discussed that with the growing number of industries, it is likely that industrial zones will gain in number. In this context, systematic measures should be taken for the environmental impact of pollution. It is therefore proper to include it in the Union Legislative List. The development of industry, science, and technology rests on the sustained research work. It is therefore proper to include it in the Union Legislative List. Moreover, the standardization of weighing systems, copyrights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, and intellectual properties are the issues that should be included in the Union Legislative List.

The Union PatO National Organization proposed that the National Convention should adopt the clarifications on the industrial sector made by the Work Committee Chairman as detailed basic principles to be included in the Union Legislative List and the Region or State Legislative List.

The Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization discussed that the five points of the industrial sector clarified by the Work Committee Chairman are reasonable and suitable. They continued that in like manner the two points that should be mentioned in the Region or State Legislative List are also proper.

The Lahu National Development Party discussed that the five points that should be included in the Union Legislative List and the two points that should be included in the Region or State Legislative Lists are proper.

The Union Kayin League proposed that the five points of the industrial sector as clarified by the Work Committee Chairman are so complete that they should be included in the Union Legislative List. The Union Kayin League also discussed that the Region or State Legislative List should cover the two points as clarified by the Work Committee Chairman.

The Kokang Democracy and Unity Party discussed that the industrial sector plays an important role in the successful implementation of the two of four economic objectives of the State: “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well” and “Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and research work. It is therefore proper to include it in the Region or State Legislative List.”

The Lahu National Development Party discussed that the National Unity Party proposed four economic objectives of the State: “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well” and “Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and

POEM

A pretty name isn’t complete

* That thing called a name
  Is a matter of calling by.
* The rose, that flower, kissed unending
  Ever to fragrant
  not that its name is pretty.
* Because of its basic good quality
  Of standard high, clear fragrance
  Due to that
  It has remained sweet smelling.
* If it is that, the standard is not met
  The name Democracy, a pretty name
  Because of its inclusion, life strong
  Country will not
  Exist for long.
* Natural water and land, human nature
  Organized according to pattern
  Such administration is for new nation
  To prosper and to show its prowess
  And its posterity in correct manner.
* Of name pretty, and life correct
  Of proper pattern, of all walks of life
  To be vibrant and sovereignty strong
  To see discipline-flourishing
  Democracy only, will render Myanmar
  Fragrant on long-term, not losing scent
  And make her magnificent forever.

Nwai Cho (Trs)
Standardization of weighing systems, copyrights, and joyfully today, their delegates at Nyaunghnapin National Convention delegates take walking exercises at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township on Sunday.— MNA

YANGON, 20 Feb — National Convention delegates at Nyaunghnapin Camp, Yangon Division, took relaxation peacefully and joyfully today, their day-off.

The delegates watched TV in their hostels and visited shops of Myanma Foodstuff Industries, Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries, Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries and the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries and GEC Shop under the Ministry of Industry-1 and purchased goods.

Furthermore, they take physical exercises and played billiards and golf.

The delegates took walking exercises and visited shops of World Series products can vary.

"Development of the industrial sector, the trans-

1. industries other than those to be under-

taken by the Pyidaungsu level,

2. cottage industries.

They proposed that these points should be in-
cluded in the Region or State Legislative Lists as to enact laws when necessary.

Their suggestions on the industrial sector are:

1. industries other than to be undertaken at the Pyidaungsu level, and

2. cottage industries.

They proposed that these points should be in-
cluded in the Region or State Legislative Lists so as to enact laws when necessary.

Though the Chairman of the Work Committee presented five points of the industrial sector to be included in the Region or State Legislative Lists so as to enact laws when necessary.

The delegate group of State service personnel suggested that the following points be included in the Union Legislative List.

They are:

1. industries to be under-

taken by the Pyidaungsu level,

2. industries, and

3. standardization and specification of products,

4. science and technol-

ogy, and research on scientiﬁc and technol-
Standardization of weighing systems, copyrights,…

YANGON, 20 Feb — On behalf of the Panel of Chairmen, member of the Panel of the Alternate Chairmen (Maung Hsa Shin) of the National Convention Convening Work Committee presented the panel of chairmen’s collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on the social sector at the Pyay District Hall of the Union of Myanmar Township, Yangon. Division on 18 February.

The following is a translation of presentation made by U Myo Thant (Maung Hsa Shin).

The delegation has been appointed to be laid down for the social sector on grounds of 11 legislative matters relevant to power-sharing in the legislative sector 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. At the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention held on 20 May 2004, the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified that “What I am going to present here is about the finds of the Work Committee on the sharing of legislative power among the Pyidaungsu legislative body and the region or state legislative bodies concerning the social sector. Of the legislative power in connection with the social sector, I will clarify which of the issues will be vested in the Pyidaungsu legislative body, and which of them in the region or state legislative bodies.”

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

(See page 11)

The product of standardization of weighing systems, copyrights, and related communication services shall be included in the Union Legislative list to enact laws may be put together as follows:

1. Inland Water Transport
2. Maintenance of waterways
3. Water resources and river systems improvement
4. Overseas shipping
5. Port terminals
6. Light house, lightship and light house facilities
7. Ship building, repair and maintenance
8. Air transport
9. Aviation, flight control and building of air fields
10. Road transport
11. Railways
12. Roads and bridges under the management of Pyidaungsu
13. Posts, telecommunications, telephones, fax, e-mail, Internet, Intranet and similar communication services
14. TV, satellite communication, transmission and reception and similar communication services

I have clarified the above-mentioned points for the National Convention delegates to discuss and make suggestions whether to lay down detailed principles to include in the Union Legislative list to enact laws.

He also said, “...the basal principles, and the three points explained by the Chairman should be put on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.”

U Myo Thant
(Maung Hsa Shin).

MNA

Only when institutes, degree colleges, universities throughout the country adopt same curricula, syllabus, teaching methods, will all-round development of education take shape

The State-owned, cooperative and private companies in railway transport, road transport is important in striving for economic development and strengthen amity among the nation and the three regions.

Reorganization and expansion of joint-ventures with foreign companies, building railways, building new airports and extending and upgrading the existing ones. It is also developing the internal and external communication network in accordance with the international principles and directives. The cooperative, owner-owned and private vessels are running inland and international passenger and freight transport services. In this regard, the 14 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be put on the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles. Furthermore, the 14 points explained by the Chairman should be put on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Mr. Hla Thein Aung National Solidarity Party said that it is appropriate to put the 14 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles and the three points explained by the Chairman on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.

Mr. Hla Thein Aung National Solidarity Party said that it is appropriate to put the 14 points explained by the Work Committee Chairman should be included in the Union legislative list as detailed basic principles and the three points explained by the Chairman should be put on the region or state legislative list as detailed basic principles.
The basic principles laid down by the National Convention concerning health and education are:

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

Concerning mothers, children and the old and the infirm, and the disabled:

In connection with the youths, another principle is laid down by the National Convention as follows:
The State shall strive to imbue youths with strong and dynamic patriotic spirit, correct way of thinking and life, respect for tradition and culture.

The National Convention has already laid down a basic principle, saying, “The State shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of workers.”

In connection with health and culture, the National Convention has laid down the basic principle — “The State shall help for development, consolidation and preservation of national culture.”

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

1. Curricula, syllabus, teaching methods, research, and projects and programmes
2. Course of universities, degree colleges and in-numerous other higher education organizations
3. Examinations designated by the Union
4. Private schools and courses
5. National and international sports
6. National health
7. Development of traditional medical science and medicines
8. Free hospitals and dispensaries and private hospitals and clinics, maternal and child welfare, and Red Cross Society.

The fraudulent production of foodstuff, medicines, medical products and cosmetics is harmful to public health, the party said, therefore it is proper to include this matter in the Union Legislative List. As regards other social activities such as the caring of children, youths, women, the disabled, the aged and the homeless; the matter of traditional medicine, the social, tradition and literature, fire brigade, the party agreed that these issues should be included in the Union Legislative List. The party also agreed that the Union Legislative List covers such matters as working hours, breaks, holidays, social welfare, labour disputes, and labour organization.

In connection with national culture, the party said, all the national races residing in the country have their own cultural heritage and custom. The Union Legislative List discovers ancient cultural or historical regions, edifices, monuments, records, stone inscriptions, handicraft, inanimate objects, archaeological works, museums, and libraries, all of which are managed by the Union. Besides, the Union Expeditionary List contains following issues under the management of the region or state:

- The preservation of cultural heritage and craft
- Museums and libraries
- Literature, theatrical art, music, traditional arts and crafts, movies, and videos are included in the Union Legislative List. However, it is proper that legislative power is distributed to the regions or states in connection with the opera house, cinema hall, video house, and the photo, painting and sculpture exhibitions.

The Union PaO National Organization discussed that the National Convention has laid down basic principles in connection with education and health. In developed countries, arts and science are advancing. For Myanmar to keep pace with them, all the citizens should be well educated. Only when the institutes, degree colleges, and universities throughout the country adopt the same curriculum, syllabus, and teaching methods will all-round development of education take shape. For private schools across the country, they need to resort to the same disciplinary pattern so as to avoid unnecessary consequences. Techniques and regular training are required for all sportsmen and sports persons. Competitions are to be held at different levels such as township, district, region and state. To ensure the health and fitness of the entire national people, campaigns for prevention of disease, treatment, health promotion and research should be launched on a national scale.

The Union PaO National Organization stressed the need to make concerted efforts to deter the fraudulent production of foodstuff, medicines, and medical products, and conventional medicines. It called on the State to care for the mother and children; to carry out social welfare tasks; to form red cross societies and fire brigades for disaster preparedness and rehabilitation tasks; to help create human resources needed for national development; to excavate and preserve ancient cultural heritage, and historical zones and edifices; to uplift the literature, theatrical art, music, traditional arts and crafts, films and videos; and to maintain national culture and characters. The Union PaO National Organization approved of the 20 points of the social sector clarified by the Work Committee Chairman, and these 20 points are adopted as detailed basic principles in the Union Legislative List.

The Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization discussed that the 10 points on the social sector represent the concerns of the State. It found what the Work Committee Chairman had clarified, and therefore it is appropriate to include them as detailed basic principles in the Union Legislative List. It also agreed to the adoption of what should be included in the Region or State Legislative List as detailed basic principles.

In a separate suggestion, it said that Myanmar is a country where a diversity of national races have resided throughout the ages and that every national race has its own culture, custom and tradition. The National Convention has laid down basic principles relevant to cultural heritage of national races. Therefore, it would be wise to encourage and revitalize the literature of national races among the people.

The Lahu National Development Party discussed that it is appropriate to adopt as detailed basic principles the 20 points that should be included in the Union Legislative List and the eight points that should be included in the Region or State Legislative List.

The Union Kayin League discussed that they agreed to what the Work Committee Chairman’s clarifications in connection with the social sector.

Of the five proposed papers submitted, the delegate group of political parties agreed to the points mentioned in the social sector. However, it suggested that the level of education partially reflects the level of a people. In a sense, giving encouragement to the national culture, tradition and literature enriches the essence of the Union. The party proposed whether it is appropriate to include the matter of the literature of ethnic groups in the Union Legislative List.

The Wa National Development Party discussed that the social sector is so wide and the social activities are so numerous. It agreed to the adoption of the 20 points that should be included as detailed basic principles in the Union Legislative List so as to enact laws when necessary.

It also suggested that the eight points be adopted as detailed basic principles in the Region or State Legislative Lists so as to enact laws when necessary.

Of the five proposed papers submitted, the delegate group of political parties agreed to the eight points which have been already laid down. Therefore, they should be adopted as detailed basic principles in the Union Legislative List. The two independent representatives-elect also agreed to what the Work Committee Chairman’s clarifications that shall be adopted as detailed basic principles in the Region or State Legislative Lists.

In a separate suggestion, they said that as the National Convention has laid down a basic principle that reads “The State will assist to reduce the rate of unemployment”. They pointed out that it is necessary for the State to create job opportunities for those who are working in the other country, getting low-paid. The development of human resources will contribute much to gross productivity in the country. They suggested that the State should consider the creation of jobs therefore be included in the Union Legislative List.

They also said in the Union of Myanmar, about 75 per cent of the population are farmers and peasants. As regards the farmers and peasants, the National Convention adopted the basic principles set by the Pyidaungsu

1. The State shall enact necessary law to protect the rights of the peasantry; and
2. The State shall help the peasants get equitable value for their agricultural productions.

Agriculture is the engine of the country’s economy, they suggested, and therefore it will be necessary to form peasant organizations like labor organizations in order to facilitate management of the peasant affairs, raise the
A Yemeni representative in the GCC Working Committee told the daily that finance ministers of the seven countries would meet soon to decide on the rates at which their currencies would be locked together in the new currency.

“I was told that all the other six countries are well-prepared for the move except Yemen. We shall definitely do our best to capture the opportunity,” the Yemeni official was quoted as saying.

The move is expected to give birth to a single currency zone of 50 million consumers in the region. Economists say among the reasons to be cautiously optimistic is the implementation of the Customs duty and the similarities of the economic outlook between the nations.

The GCC, a regional, political and economic alliance established in 1981, groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar.

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Dated: 21 February 2005

Egyptian FM to meet Austrian counterpart on bilateral ties

CAIRO, 19 Feb—Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Saturday will hold talks with his Austrian counterpart Ursula Plassnik, who arrived here Friday for a two-day visit to Egypt, the official MENA news agency reported.

The talks will discuss means of promoting bilateral relations in various fields, according to MENA.

The two ministers will also exchange views on regional and international issues of common concern, especially the Egyptian and international efforts to push forward the Middle East peace process.—MENA/Xinhua.

Former astronaut expected to be named NASA’s acting chief

WASHINGTON, 19 Feb—Former astronaut Fred Gregory is expected to be named NASA’s acting chief, becoming the first African-American to head the US space agency, a congressional spokesman said on Thursday.

“IT’s our understanding that as soon as (departing NASA chief) Mr. Sean O’Keefe is off the books, Mr. Gregory will become the acting administrator,” said House Science Committee spokesman Joe Poutoli. O’Keefe’s last official day on the job is Friday. Gregory has been deputy administrator since 2006.

O’Keefe said earlier this month he planned to leave NASA by February 21, when he takes up his position as chancellor of Louisiana State University.

MENA/Reuters

Chinese author says middle class society a long way off

BEIJING, 19 Feb — There is still a long way to go before the much anticipated middle class becomes a mainstream, accountable group in China, wrote Deng Yuwen in a commentary on Friday’s China Daily.

The talk about China’s middle class, annual income between 25,000 yuan (3,010 US dollars) to 30,000 yuan (3,610 US dollars), or household income between 75,000 yuan (9,040 US dollars) to 100,000 yuan (12,050 US dollars), is not overly optimistic, according to Chen, an author at the Social Science Newspaper.

There were, according to a report released by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), 35.18 million middle class members in China last year, which is about 2.8 per cent of the total population.

BNP Paribas, a French bank, defines members of China’s middle class as well-educated professionals with an annual income of 70,000 yuan (8,480 US dollars) to 100,000 yuan (12,050 US dollars).

MENA/Xinhua

Central China Province endeavours to revive woodcut painting art

ZHENGZHOU, 19 Feb—Central China’s Henan Province is seeking to revive the once-popular traditional Chinese folk art form of woodcut painting, said sources at a provincial art show hosted by the Henan Museum.

The provincial government of Henan has called the local woodcut painting popular in Zhiyuan Town, Kaifeng, as the top folk art form to be revived in recent years.

More than 1,000 traditional woodcuts made by artists from Zhiyuan have been found by the local government, including six from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and 23 from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The local government has outlined a series of measures to revive the art, which is expected to

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.
In knowledge age teacher discharges lofty national duty in shaping correct way to bring about national interest for future of the State and the people
Special Refresher Course No 22 for Basic Education Teachers concludes at CICS (Upper Myanmar)

Yangon, 20 Feb—A ceremony to conclude the Special Refresher Course No 22 for Basic Education Teachers was held at Yadana Hall in the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), Pyin U Lwin Township, this morning.

On behalf of the Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee, Minister for Basic Education Teachers at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), — MNA

It is necessary for the basic education 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.

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.

On behalf of MEC Chairman, Minister for education U Than Aung delivers an address at the ceremony to conclude Special Refresher Course No 22 for Basic Education Teachers at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar). — MNA

Education U Than Aung delivered an address, saying that 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 out-

PERSONAL—firm position, firm conviction, dutifulness and strong morale.

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

In connection with morale, Minister U Than Aung 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.

In conclusion, Minister for Education U Than Aung called on the teachers to strive for constantly producing of intellectuals and intelligentia who are imbued with patriotism, nationalism and Union spirit for ensuring the perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar standing firmly among the world’s nations; to shoulder national duties consciously through the education sector for the development of the entire Union including their own regions and rural areas; and to play their active part with nationalistic fervor in successful implementation of the seven-point Road Map that will help build a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state.

The minister said knowledge age teacher discharges lofty national duty and he plays an important part in shaping the correct way to bring about national interest for the future of the State and the people.

He emphasized the need for the teaching profession to stay authentic in terms of professionalism as well as the teaching needs of the society.

The teachers are to take part in the constructive endeavors in the interests of the people with correct policy of the government in accord with these qualifications and to prevent the acts of destructive elements from undermining the interests of the people.

In connection with morale, Minister U Than Aung 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.

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Inter Milan’s Giuseppe Favalli (R) challenges Udinese’s David di Michele during their Serie A match in the northern Italian city of Udine on 19 Feb 2005. Third placed Inter Milan remain 11 points adrift of the leaders AC Milan and Juventus after they conceded a late goal to draw 1-1 with Udinese. — INTERNET

The result gave Milan 54 points from 25 matches, level on points but with a better goal difference than Juventus, who drew 0-0 at Massa in an earlier match. Third placed Inter Milan remain 11 points adrift of the leaders AC Milan and Juventus after they conceded a late goal to draw 1-1 with Udinese.

AC Milan defeat Cagliari 1-0
ROME, 20 Feb— Ten-man AC Milan replaced Juventus at the top of Serie A after a stoppage-time goal by Brazilian winger Serigozinho gave them a 1-0 win over Cagliari on Saturday.

S Koreas’ Suwon win East Asian Champions Cup title
SEOUL, 20 Feb— Brazilian striker Nadson scored twice to help South Korea’s Suwon Bluewings beat Japan’s Yokohama F-Marinos 3-1 to lift the East Asian Champions Cup in Sogwipo, South Korea on Saturday.

Racing Strasbourg crush PSG 3-1
PARIS, 20 Feb— Racing Strasbourg ruined Paris St. Germain hopes that a change of coach could ease their troubles when they beat the Parisians 3-1 on Saturday.

Man Utd to reach FA Cup quarters by beating Everton 2-0
LONDON, 20 Feb— Holders Manchester United beat Everton 2-0 to reach the FA Cup quarterfinals, while 10-man Arsenal were held to a last-gasp 1-1 draw by Second Division Sheffield United amid a series of upsets on Saturday.

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

Juventus salvage 0-0 draw with Messina
ROME, 20 Feb— Juventius’ command of Serie A and their morale for next week’s Champions League clash with Real Madrid took a battering when they drew 0-0 at lowly Messina on Saturday.

The result left Juventus with 54 points from 25 games, three more than champions AC Milan, who can reclaim their place at the top on goal difference if they beat Cagliari in a later match.

The draw was the latest in a recent series of slips by Juve, who started February with an eight-point cushion but losing two out of their last three matches to let Milan back into the title race.

Messina’s standing in the bottom half of the division belied a tricky away test for the 27-time Italian champions.

The Sicilian side had lost only twice at their Stadio San Filippo this season and easily matched the visitors in the first half.

While Alessandore D’Iorio forced Messina keeper Marco Storari into a diving save at one end, Riccardo Zampagna went even closer at the other with a header that struck the post.

S Korea’s Suwon win East Asian Champions Cup title
SEOUL, 20 Feb— Brazilian striker Nadson scored twice to help South Korea’s Suwon Bluewings beat Japan’s Yokohama F-Marinos 3-1 to lift the East Asian Champions Cup in Sogwipo, South Korea on Saturday.

Nadson put Suwon in front in the 16th minute on the South Korea resort island of Cheju. New signing Hideo Oshima levelled for Yokohama with a clinical finish four minutes later.

But Kim Dong-hyon took advantage of sloppy Yokohama defending to scramble Suwon’s second six minutes into the second half.

Nadson, last year’s K-League player of the year, latched on to a clever pass from South Korea international Kim Nam-il to seal victory in the 85th minute.

Nadson’s six goals earned him player of the tournament honours as K-League champions Suwon finished unbeaten with seven points from three matches to take the first prize of 400,000 US dollars.

“Scoring goals just comes naturally to me,” said Nadson, who has already set his sights high for the 2005 season. “I am aiming to score between 30 and 40 goals this year.”

Yokohama needed to beat Suwon to win the title but the K-League title holders had to settle for third place on four points.

MAN/Reuters

“Fair and square, Everton missed a couple of players and had some young players out there and I thought that helped us.” For his decision to play Rooney at Goodison, Ferguson said: “I think it was important. Leaving him out would have been ridiculous because at some point he has to play at Everton, whether it’s today, next week or next season.”

Arsenal face a replay at Bramall Lane on March 1 after their largely second-string side conceded a 90th minute penalty.

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MAN/Reuters

An Everton defender tries to tackle Manchester United’s Cristianonaldo (R) during their FA Cup fifth round soccer match at Goodison Park. Manchester United won. — INTERNET
Only when institutes, degree colleges, universities... (from page 11)
living standard of the peasants, and boost the productivity in agriculture.

U Tin Win, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Kyakhtla township, U Thein Kyi, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Taungdwingyi township, U Hla Soe, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Minsah township, U Mya Hlaing, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of TWantkyay township, U Kyi Win, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-1 of Mingaladon township, and U Tin Tun Masswa, the independent representative-elect from the constituency-2 of Minsah township discussed that in connection with the industrial sector, the transport sector, and the social sector, they agreed to the way legislative power is distributed to the Union Hluttaw, the Region or State Hluttaws, and the Self-administered Zone.

The group continued that the people found it difficult to use some medicinal plants such as perennial ones on account of their own culture, tradition and custom. This cultural heritage is priceless for the country. The National Convention has adopted a basic principle that reads “The State shall help for development, consolidation and preservation of national culture”. He also agreed that the matters to be included in the Union Legislative List and those to be included in the Region or State Legislative List should be adopted as detailed basic principles in the framing of the State constitution.

The delegate group of national races agreed to the adoption of the 20 points that should be included as detailed basic principles in the Union Legislative List. In addition, the group suggested the point 15 “fire prevention measure” with the term “fire brigade, fire outbreak, and disaster preparedness”; and the Point 6(A) “preservation of cultural heritage” with the term “preservation of literature, fine arts, and cultural heritage”. The group also suggested in connection with the areas that with a majority of national races, opportunities be created to carry out researches on the language and literature of their own.

Permission should be granted to learn the dialect of the national race concerned in the region or the state, or the self-administered division or the self-administered zone.

The group continued that the national races living in Myanmar have literature, language, fine arts and culture. The study of the 104 fundamental principles shows that a basic principle has been laid down in connection with this. It reads “The State shall help develop language, literature, fine arts and culture of national races”. The group suggested that any government that will come into power continue helping such issues in line with the future State constitution.

In a separate suggestion, it said that the cultural heritage of national races residing in the country should comprise their literature. Similarly, it added, customs and traditions of national races should be revived and preserved. This being the case, the group suggested, the point 4 “fire prevention” should be replaced with the term “fire prevention and natural disaster preparedness”.

The group agreed to the adoption of detailed basic principles in the Region or State Legislative Lists so as to enact law when necessary in connection with the matters related to the social sector. The group also suggested in connection with the adoption of detailed basic principles in the Region or State Legislative Lists so as to enact law when necessary in connection with the matters related to the social sector.

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The group substituted the Point 15 “working hours, breaks, and holidays” with the term “working hours, breaks, holidays, and occupational safety”. And action will have to be taken against those that breach the rules. Therefore, it is necessary, the group suggested, to enact necessary laws in connection with media.

The delegate group of State service personnel discussed that the 20 points to be included in the Union Legislative List and the eight points to be included in the Region or State Legislative Lists should be adopted as detailed basic principles as clarified by the chairman of the Work Committee in connection with the social sector.

The delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia discussed that the 20 points to be included in the Union Legislative List and the eight points to be included in the Region or State Legislative Lists should be adopted as detailed basic principles as clarified by the chairman of the Work Committee in connection with the social sector.

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

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

### Four political 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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**Secretary-1 attends opening ceremony of World Series International Sepaktakraw Championship-2005 (Myanmar)**

Chairman of Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein enjoys skills demonstration of selected Myanmar woman caneball player. — NLM

**Yangon, 20 Feb — On behalf of the Panel of Chairmen, member of the Panel of the Alternate Chairmen Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Delegates of the State Service Personnel presented the panel of chairmen’s collection of excerpts from the suggested proposals submitted by delegates to the National Convention on the industrial, transportation and communication sector at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmaubay Township, Yangon Division, on 18 February.**

**The following is a translation of presentation made by Maj-Gen Aung Thein.**

In connection with the basic principles to be laid down for the industrial sector on grounds of 11 legislative matters 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 delegates to the National Convention and from those by certain delegates to the National Convention.

At the Plenary Meeting of the National Convention held on 19 May 2004, the Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee clarified that: “Now, I will present the industrial sector. Two of the four economic objectives of the State call for Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well, and Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad. The industrial sector plays a vital role in the realization of these two economic objectives.”

“I have clarified these points for the delegates to discuss and make suggestions on whether to formulate detailed basic principles to include in the Union Legislative list to introduce laws, if necessary, in connection with the following points that should be included under the industrial sector —

1. Industries to be undertaken by the Pyidaungsu level,
2. Industrial Zones,
3. Science and technology and research on science and technology,

— MNA

(See page 8)