Panel of Alternate Chairmen presents collections of suggestions made by NC delegates on laying down detailed basic principles for Election, Political Parties and Provisions on State of Emergency to be included in State Constitution

YANGON, 20 July — The plenary session of the National Convention went on at Pyidaungsu Hall in Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmayawby Township, here, this morning.

The Panel of Alternate Chairmen presented collections to the plenary session of the National Convention submitted by NC delegates on laying down detailed basic principles for Election, Political Parties and Provisions on State of Emergency to be included in the State Constitution.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of the NCC Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members, chairmen of subcommittees, officials, delegates of National Unity Party, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, peasant delegates from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of national races from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of national races (See page 8).

Four political 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 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

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Boost per acre yield of paddy

In Myanmar rice is a principal crop as well as an export item. Emphasis is being placed on cultivation and producing of rice for self-sufficiency and exporting the surplus.

Monsoon paddy cultivation ceremony was held in Motelwe, Waingmw Township, Kachin State on 13 July. Waingmw Township cultivated 49,225 acres of monsoon paddy in 2006-2007, and it is targeted to grow 52,995 acres of monsoon paddy in 2007-2008. At present, land preparation was carried out on 39,337 acres, 33,678 acres were put under paddy and 50,347 acres will be put under paddy by the end of the paddy cultivation season.

Kachin State cultivated 509,274 acres of monsoon paddy in 2006-2007 paddy cultivation season, and has been able to produce over 34 million baskets of paddy at the rate of 66.88 baskets per acre. In this year’s monsoon paddy cultivation season each and every township in Kachin State is making all-out efforts to meet the target of cultivating 600,000 acres of monsoon paddy.

The government is striving for the development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well in order to enhance the socio-economic life of the people across the nation including Kachin State. In this regard, it has spent a large amount of funds on construction of dams and reservoirs and other irrigation facilities.

Local people, on their part, are to make efforts for boosting the per acre yield, applying modern agricultural techniques and using quality strain of paddy and fertilizers, while engaging in extended reclamation of land.

We firmly believe that all the farmers will be able to boost the per acre yield using modern cultivation techniques and quality strain of paddy.

Wellwishers invited to donate publications to e-Library

YANGON, 20 July — Individuals and organizations are invited to donate publications, paintings and photos to E-Library Online system being upgraded by collaborative efforts of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and Ministry of Education.

Wellwishers may contact Librarian of Universities Central Library, e-mail: ucl@dhelm-edu.gov.mm (Ph: 01- 536927, 534979, 535847), Professor and Head of Department of Computer Science of Yangon University, e-mail: csyu @ dhelm-edu. gov. mm (Ph: 01-531364), Head of Office of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs (Ph: 067-407158), Head of Education of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Ph: 01-545135 and 559892) and Chief Engineer of Information and Technology Department (Ph: 067-420351).

A seminar on E-Library will be held at Myanmar Info Tech on Hline Campus on 30 July morning. — MNA

Issuing of Citizenship Scrutiny Card coordinated in Yangon Division

COMMANDER MAJ-GEN HLA HTAY WIN delivers an address at work coordination meeting of Yangon Division Immigration and National Registration Department. — MNA

In his speech, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win said that local authorities are to cooperate with social organization to issue Citizenship Scrutiny Card. The Township CSC Issuing Supervisory Committees have been formed with the participation of township level officials of INRD, Planning Department, Immigration and National Registration Department of Mandalay.

Mahananda Thabeikyina, Deputy Minister and Township/ward/village officials. He stressed the need to issue the remaining CSCs to the people within three months. Next, the Head of Division INRD reported on progress of the tasks. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks. — MNA

Ministry of Health offers Waso robes to monks

NAV PI TAW, 20 July — Under the aegis of Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and wife, the Ministry of Health held the 10th Waso robe offering ceremony at the ministry this morning.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tissa of Maha Dhammikayana Ohndaw Pariyatti Monastery in Ywakauk Ward of Nay Pyi Taw Pymnana and members of the Sangha consecrated the Buddha Image to be kept at the ministry. After taking the Five Precepts, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint and wife present the mental heads donated Waso robes to the members of the Sangha.

Later, the congregation shared merits gained. — MNA

Hair regrow cosmetics introduced in Mandalay

YANGON, 20 July

— U Asi Family Co Ltd held a ceremony to introduce cosmetic products produced by People’s Republic of China in conjunction with an opening ceremony of 101 Hair Regrow Centre (4) at the Sedona Hotel in Mandalay yesterday.

First, Ko Swe Aung of the company extended greetings and Miss Chen Yan gave accounts on cosmetic products.

For further information, everyone can contact Ma/10 7 (Nga), 65th street, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay (Ph: 02-62235) and No (115), 20th street, Latha Township (Ph: 01-251230), No (15) Thabyaynyo Street, Sangyoung Township (Ph: 01-510888) and No (55) Kyaukmyaung Market Street, Tamway Township (Ph: 01-554391) in Yangon. — MNA
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Slovak PM disagrees with US base in Europe**

**Prague, 19 July**— Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico told his Italian counterpart Romano Prodi at a meeting in Bratislava on Wednesday that he disagreed to station anti-missile bases in the neighbouring Czech Republic and Poland.

Fico pointed out that it was his personal view and not the Slovak Government’s position.

The issue of the anti-missile bases has not been sufficiently discussed with the European Union, Russia and NATO, Fico pointed out.

He also did not want the installations to be stationed too close to Slovakia. “I am against any missile bases and any radar installations on the territory of the European Union in close vicinity of Slovakia. This directly concerns us,” he added.

Fico said that Russia and the United States were unlikely to reach an agreement on the problem because their positions are too extreme.

The deployment of the bases should have been discussed with Russia from the very beginning, he added. The United States unveiled its plan in January to place a radar system in the Czech Republic and 10 interceptor missiles in Poland, as components of the missile defence shield. Russia has voiced strong opposition to the deployment. Fico repeated his negative position on the bases several times and he always pointed out that he personally would oppose stationing of such a base in Slovakia.

The Slovak Foreign Ministry previously expressed a position on the US missile defence shield in Europe different from that of Fico’s. It confirmed that Slovakia would contribute to security in Central Europe.

**US soldier killed in bomb attack in Baghdad**

**Baghdad, 19 July**— An American soldier was killed and four others wounded in a roadside bomb attack in eastern Baghdad, the US military said on Wednesday.

The attack took place on Tuesday when an improvised explosive device struck their patrol during combat operation in the area, a military statement said.

Two more soldiers were also killed Tuesday in a roadside bomb explosion near their vehicle in western Baghdad, an earlier statement said.

Earlier in the day, another military statement reported a US Marine has died on Monday of non-combat related cause in Iraq's western province of Anbar, without providing further details.

The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq to more than 3,620 since the Iraq war broke out in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

**20pc of girls starving to control weight: study**

**Sydney, 20 July**— A national survey of almost 9,000 children has shown one in five teenage girls starve themselves or vomit up their food to control their weight.

Speaking at a home economics forum in Brisbane today, a University of Sydney researcher Dr Jenny O'Dea says the rate of eating disorders among teenage girls has doubled since the last survey in 2000.

Dr O’Dea says one in five teenage girls starve themselves for two-day stretches or vomit their food to control their weight.

The survey also showed 8 per cent of girls use smoking for weight control. Dr O’Dea says these methods of weight control are dangerous.

“...they don’t lose fat, they lose fluid — but it’s very dangerous, it can result in sudden heart attack for example,” she said. “Psychologically it’s unhealthy and physically it’s very unhealthy.”

Dr O’Dea says teenage girls are being influenced by media reports about obesity.

**Calls for Brazil airport to close**

**London, 20 July**— There are mounting calls for Sao Paulo’s Congonhas airport to close in the wake of Tuesday’s Tam Airlines crash in which some 200 people died.

The airport should shut “until its security conditions are examined”, Brazil’s Federal Public Ministry said.

And federal prosecutors are said to have asked courts to close the airport until both its runways are renovated.

Officials are still trying to establish why the Airbus 320 overshot the runway, hitting buildings and then exploding.

The crash occurred in wet conditions, on a recently resurfaced runway which has been criticised as being too short.
Every citizen shall have the right to vote and to stand for election according to law

YANGON, 20 July— The following is the collection of suggestions made by NC delegates on “Election” submitted to the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungshin Camp in Hmaukh Township today.

The chairman and members of the National Convention Convening Commission, the chairman and members of the National Convention Convening Work Committee, the chairman and members of the National Convention Convening Management Committee, and NC delegates, may you be blessed with physical and mental well-being and auspiciousness.

Esteemed NC delegates,

The Work Committee chairman’s clarification on the detailed basic principles on the chapters “Election”, “Political Parties”, and “Provisions on State of Emergency” to be included in the State constitution were read out at the NC plenary sessions held on 30 and 31 October 2006.

Regarding the clarification, representatives of the delegate groups compiled group-wise proposal papers through discussions and submitted them to the NC plenary sessions.

At the plenary sessions held between 27 November to 7 December 2006, the delegate groups submitted their proposal papers totaling 18 as follows:

(a) Delegate Group of Political Parties 8 papers
(b) Delegate Group of Representatives-elect 4 papers
(c) Delegate Group of National Races 1 paper
(d) Delegate Group of Peasants 1 paper
(e) Delegate Group of Workers 1 paper
(f) Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia 1 paper
(g) Delegate Group of State Service Personnel 1 paper
(h) Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons 1 paper

Some NC delegates from respective delegate groups have read out these proposals at the NC plenary sessions. Now, I will present the NC panel chairman’s assessments of these proposals as a whole.

Esteemed NC delegates,

At the NC plenary session held on 30 October 2006, the Work Committee chairman said, “The National Convention designated 15 chapters first for ensuring a systematic approach to the laying down of basic principles and detailed basic principles to draft a new State constitution. The Chapter “Election” is one of the 15 chapters, and two basic principles have been laid down for it.

(a) Every citizen shall have the right to vote and to stand for election according to law.

(b) Voters concerned shall eligible to have the right, in accordance with provisions of the State constitution, to recall elected people’s representatives.

The sphere of these basic principles is quite wide. Accordingly, based on these two basic principles, it is required of the National Convention to lay down detailed basic principles for the chapter.

Only then, will it be possible to comply with the rules and regulations in writing and adopting the provisions on election stated in the State constitution and related laws on election.”

He said, “A collection of these points putting together will be made for your convenience in studying them.

1. In electing members to Hluttaw—
   (a) Every citizen who has turned 18 on the date on which elections commence, who is not disqualified by law, who is eligible to vote, and who has the right to vote under the law, shall have the right to vote.
   (b) Every citizen who is eligible to vote and who has the right to vote by the law shall cast only a vote for a Hluttaw each at a constituency.
   (c) In addition, people of national races concerned who are eligible to vote in accord with the provisions of the State Constitution shall have the right to vote in electing representatives of national races to the Region or State Hluttaw concerned.
   (d) Ballot shall be exercised.

2. The following persons shall have no right to vote—
   (a) members of the Religious Order;
   (b) persons serving prison terms;
   (c) persons adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law;
   (d) persons who have not yet been cleared from being declared destitute; and
   (e) persons who are banned from voting under the election law.

3. At an election, a candidate—
   (a) shall be elected to a Hluttaw only,
   (b) shall stand for election at one constituency only.

4. (a) Electorate living in the Union territories, or the Union territories designated by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under the law, shall elect members of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw only.
   (b) Save as otherwise prescribed by the Constitution, a Region or State Hluttaw member elected in a constituency that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has designated as a Union territory shall no longer stand as a Hluttaw member.

5. Every citizen who is not disqualified by the provisions of this Constitution and the provisions of the law regulating elections shall have the right to stand for election to a Hluttaw.

6. (a) A Hluttaw member may be recalled for any of the following reasons—
   (1) treason;
   (2) violation of any provision of the Constitution;
   (3) misbehaviour;
   (4) lack of qualifications prescribed in the Constitution for a Hluttaw member;
   (5) inefficient discharge of duties.
   (b) Complaint about the Hluttaw member endorsed by at least one percent of the voters of the constituency concerned shall be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Election Commission.
   (c) Pyidaungsu Election Commission shall conduct investigation into the case in accord with the law.
   (d) While the case is under investigation, the

U Myo Than (Maung Su Shin).— MNA

Hluttaw member concerned shall have the right to rebut the accusation in person or through a representative.

(e) The Pyidaungsu Election Commission shall, finding the accusation true and considering the Hluttaw member should no longer carry out duties, take action in accord with the law.

7. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall prescribe necessary laws on election and recall.

8. (a) The President shall form a Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Election Commission. In the process, he may appoint at least five members including the chairman of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in accord with the provisions on appointment of Union minister stated in the Constitution.

(b) The chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Election Commission shall be the ones who—
   (1) have served for at least 20 years; or
   (2) possess a full professional qualification in law.

(c) The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall provide necessary measures for at least 10 years; or

(d) are esteemed personalities.

(e) The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Election Commission shall, upon request of a Hluttaw member concerned, conduct investigation into the case in accord with the law.

(f) The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall recall members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw who no longer serve in the office.  (See page 5)
Every citizen shall have the right to...

(9) do not accept any other positions from which they can enjoy salaries and allowances.

9. Duties of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission are as follows:
(a) holding Hluttaw elections;
(b) supervising Hluttaw elections, and forming and supervising sub-commissions at all levels;
(c) designating and arranging constituencies;
(d) making and arranging lists of voters;
(e) putting off elections that are not in a position to be held in a free and fair way in some constituencies due to natural disasters or local security;
(f) issuing necessary laws on elections and political parties in accord with the provisions of this Constitution and procedures and directives in accord with the laws concerned;
(g) forming electoral benches to resolve electoral disputes;
(h) discharging duties assigned under a law.

10. If the President has to blame and charge the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission, he shall do so in accord with the provisions prescribed in this Constitution on blaming the Union Chief Justice or any of Union Supreme Court judges.

11. (a) If the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in service wishes to resign of his own accord due to his health condition or any of other reasons, he may submit his resignation to the President.
(b) If the seat of the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is vacant due to resignation, termination of responsibilities, death, or any other reasons, the President may appoint a new chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in accord with the provisions on appointment of an Union minister enumerated in the State Constitution.
(c) If the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is a government employee, he shall be deemed to have resigned from civil service in accord with the existing civil service rules and regulations from the date he is appointed as the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission.

12. The Pyidaungsu Election Commission’s action and measures over the following matters shall be final:
(a) electoral procedures;
(b) appeals and amendments on electoral benches’ decisions and orders;
(c) matters taken under political party law.

13. Responsibilities, powers and rights of the chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is a government employee, he shall be deemed to have resigned from civil service in accord with the existing civil service rules and regulations from the date he is appointed as the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission.

14. The role of the chairman of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission is designated to be equivalent to the position of a Vice-President, and a member, to the position of a Union minister in order to make reference to responsibilities, powers and rights of the chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission in prescribing laws.

Then, he said, “In this regard, you delegates should hold discussions and make suggestions so as to decide whether the points that have been presented should be adopted as detailed principles and proposals if you have should be submitted. Some more points relating to the Chapter “Election” will be presented. The Plenary Session of the National Convention held from 28 to 30 March 1996 laid down detailed basic principles for the formation of Legislation, Executive and Judiciary, and some of them are related to qualifications set for a Pyithu Hluttaw member.

“Hluttaw members including members of the Pyithu Hluttaw who will take part in the legislative sector, one of the three sovereign powers of the State—legislation, executive and judiciary—should catch up with the political, administrative, economic, social and national races affairs of the State. Only then, will they be able to carry out legislative functions effectively. The detailed basic principle ‘Pyithu Hluttaw members shall have settled in the Union of Myanmar for at least 10 consecutive years up to the time of being elected Pyithu Hluttaw representative’. Disputes may arise in future if there is no explanation about the stay of national people who went abroad for further study under the permission of the government, on business of personal affairs. Now, the nation has launched the market-oriented economic system. Therefore, many national are staying in foreign countries on duty with the permission of the government, on business, or on personal affairs. Such stay in foreign countries should be deemed to have settled in the Union.

“Therefore, discussions are to be held and suggestions to be made whether the point:

‘The period of staying abroad with the permission of the government shall be deemed to have settled in the Union’ should be adopted as the provision under the detailed basic principle.

‘Having settled in the Union of Myanmar for at least 10 consecutive years up to the time of being elected as Pyithu Hluttaw representative’ should be adopted as a detailed basic principle.

Esteemed NC delegates,

Regarding the clarification, the National Unity Party of the Delegate Group of Political Parties said that the detailed basic principles on election were necessary for ensuring a free and fair election. So, the detailed basic principles on election were appropriate, it said.

As a separate suggestion, the party representative explained, “In his clarification regarding para (7), the Work Committee chairman said, ‘In respect of election, at present, Myanmar practises the system of electing one Hluttaw member from a constituency with each vote. However, many countries have made the system of setting up a large constituency to elect more than one Hluttaw member, and designating the number of Hluttaw members in proportion to the votes. So, to catch up with the changes, necessary law should be prescribed in accordance with the resolutions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

“To our knowledge, about 120 countries that exercise multi-party democracy system, more than 70 countries exercise the system of designating the number of Hluttaw members in proportion to the votes. That system helps elect representatives based on the expression of the voters who will really represent the people. By practising such a system, there will be many benefits such every vote becomes more effective, a greater number of qualified candidates will be elected, and the requirements of the nation will be elected, and the parties standing for elections can enjoy more than proportionate ration of the representatives from the party concerned.

Therefore, we would like to suggest that the system of designating the number of Hluttaw members in proportion to the votes many countries exercise should be applied in the forthcoming elections.

And the Union Pa-O National Organization said that the collection of 14 detailed basic principles for the Chapter “Election” the Work Committee chairman has proposed are appropriate to be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The Shan State Kokang Democratic Party said that the 15 detailed basic principles for the Chapter “Election” the Work Committee chairman has explained are appropriate to be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The Mro Khiami National Solidarity Organization said that to help the representatives make suggestions, the Work Committee chairman had explained 14 points that should be adopted as detailed basic principles for the Chapter “Election” to be included in the State constitution.

It added that what the Work Committee chairman had proposed were appropriate to be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The Lahu National Development Party in its discussion said, “The points the Work Committee chairman explained at the NC plenary session on 30 October 2006 regarding the detailed basic principles for the Chapter “Election” are in conformity with the constitutions of world countries and the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution and the nation’s prevailing conditions. So, we suggested that these points be adopted as detailed basic principles’.

The Union Kayin League said, “The Work Committee chairman has explained in detail the matters concerning the persons who have the right to vote and have no right to vote and the voting system; the right to stand for election and the right to recall elected representatives; the formation of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission, its duties and the qualifications of its members; the matter concerning the filing of charges against a member of the commission; the appointment of duties for a post vacant due to termination of duties, death or other reasons; and the resolutions of the commission, functions, responsibilities, powers, rights, and designation of official position. When we studies them we have come to understand the fact that the nation will be able to hold a free and fair election in the future.

We agree that the 14 points concerning the chapter should be adopted as detailed basic principles.”

The Kokang Democracy and Unity Party said, “We would like to present our views about findings of the Work Committee for the Chapter “Election”, the Chapter “Political Parties”, the Chapter “Provisions on State of Emergency”. The points for the Chapter “Election”

(1) include the right to vote and to stand for election in accordance with the law.

(See page 6)
Every citizen shall have the right to...

(from page 5)

(2) represent the democratic election system,
(3) prescribe principles of election,
(4) include principles to recall a Hluttaw member due to his disqualification,
(5) manifest the formation of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission, functions, power and privileges of the chairmen and members of the commission.

We consider that the points the Work Committee chairman has explained are consistent with the State constitution, so we would like to suggest that these points be adopted as detailed basic principles.

The Wa National Development Party said, “The collection of 14 detailed basic principles on election the Work Committee chairman presented are based on the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution, and the constitutions of many other nations. These points are complete. So, we suggest that these points should be adopted as detailed basic principles.”

Esteemed NC delegates,

“Of the four proposals, presented by the Delegate Group of Representatives-elect said, the political parties from the Delegate Group of Political Parties have evaluated the presentations of the representatives of the National League for Democracy and Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization. And the discussions of respective representatives are the same as they have done.

Independent Representatives-Elect Dr Hmu Htan of Thantlang Township Constituency in Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywnang Township Constituency in Shan State and U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan Township Constituency in Shan State (North) expressed their support for the Work Committee chairman’s proposals about the Chapter “Election” to be included in the State constitution.

In addition, as a separate suggestion, they said, “I would like to make some suggestions about electoral procedures. Many electoral procedures are carried out in accordance with the provisions concerned including the submission of bills of electoral expenses spent by the elected Hluttaw members after the elections. The organizations responsible for the elections have to issue final reports on the elections. Some principles related to the Hluttaw sessions are:

“The first regular session of the Pyithu Hluttaw shall be convened within 90 days after the general election commences.”

“The day on which the term of the Amyotha Hluttaw comes into force is that of the Pyithu Hluttaw.”

“The first regular session of the Amyotha Hluttaw shall be held within seven days after the commencement of its term.” In my opinion, final reports should be released in time so that first regular sessions of the Hluttaws can be held in line with the provisions concerned. In this regard, elected Hluttaw members are to complete their tasks in time. There should not be a situation in which Hluttaw sessions are put off due to the delay on the final reports. Therefore, I would like to make a positive suggestion that in issuing laws, rules and directions on elections

(a) specific duration for the functions to be carried out by the elected Hluttaw members,
(b) the time during which the election commission has to issue the final report, should be fixed.”

Six Independent Representatives-Elect from the Delegate Group of Representatives-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 Minthalyi Township Constituency (2) in their discussions supported the Work Committee chairman’s explanation about the points as suggests.

As a separate suggestion, they said, “In a democratic country, voting means that the people use their rights and duties for the emergency of a government that will rule the nation on their behalf. The people should have access to ballot so that they can vote freely and avoid a situation of being threatened in casting votes. In some constituencies in border areas, the voters cast are polling bothwise. In consequence, armed insurgents can guess who won at a village or ward. And they may torch the village or ward and torture the dwellers for not electing the one for whom they forced the people to vote. So, votes should be counted constituency-wise instead of polling bothwise about the 15 points.

Esteemed NC delegates,

The Delegate Group of National Races said, “the 15 points on election are necessary for the Chapter “Election”, so they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.”

The Delegate Group of Peasants said, “The 15 points proposed for the Chapter “Election” to be included in the State constitution should be adopted as detailed basic principles.”

In its proposal, the Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia supported what the Work Committee chairman explained regarding the Chapter “Election” to be included in the State constitution. Moreover, as a separate suggestion, they said, “The chairman and members of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission will have to discharge demanding and formidable tasks. So, if they are not capable enough of accomplishing such huge tasks, they are to be impeached and terminated from their duties, if necessary. In this regard, we consider that it is required to prescribe specific reasons and procedures to impeach such persons.

So, we would like to make a suggestion that a detailed basic principle should be adopted: “Regarding the impeachment of the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission:”

(a) The President may impeach the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission for any of the following reasons:
   (1) treason of the chairman or a member of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission
   (2) violation of any provision of the Constitution
   (3) misbehaviour
   (4) lack of qualifications prescribed in the Constitution for a Hluttaw member
   (5) incapable of performing his duties.
(b) proceedings shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of the State constitution on impeachment of the Union Chief Justice or a Union Supreme Court Judge.

The Delegate Group of State Service Personnel said, “The points proposed to be adopted are the principles that are practised globally. We thank the Work Committee chairman for preventing international experiences and past historic events of Myanmar thoroughly and objectively to the Chapter “Election”. The points he has proposed should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Furthermore, as a suggestion, they said, “Of the 14 points, sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph (11) means as if that sub-paragraph is solely related to the matter to fill the positions of the chairmen and members of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (11) due to vacancies. We would like to make a suggestion that it will be more appropriate if sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph (11) is added to paragraph (8) as its sub-paragraph (c).”

The Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons said, “What the Work Committee chairman has explained are reasonable and in conformity with the six objectives of the National Convention for ensuring stability and peace and development of the nation along with upholding Our Three Main National Causes.”

So, the NC delegates from the Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons deeply support his explanations about the 14 points and one additional point for the Chapter “Election”, six points for the Chapter “Political Parties” and 23 points for the Chapter “Provisions on State of Emergency”.

As a suggestion, they said, “We would like to make two separate suggestions about the Chapter “Election”. They are:

(a) There have been many events that in elections and casting votes in Hluttaw sessions of some other countries, voters, Hluttaw members and political parties were under the influence of money, muscle and gangs such as Mafia, and such countries suffered losses a lot. So, in order to avert such undesirable events, effective provisions and laws including anti-defection law should be prescribed.
(b) A principle should be prescribed in the Pyidaungsu Election Commission Law that decisions of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission shall be made with unanimous vote or the vote of the majority to prevent the decisions the chairman or a member or two members of the commission make as they wish at the meetings of the Pyidaungsu Election Commission.” — MNA

POEM

Towards complete success

* Peace is...
   With one mind
   Working together in unity
   In view of prosperity
   Upholding Three Main National Causes.
 * Constantly realizing the State’s goodwill
   Work for the welfare of community
   With goodwill and enthusiasm.
   Preserve national prestige and integrity
   Without any disagreement among national brethren.
   Holding discussions for good future
   May the National Convention meet complete success.

Hnin Maung (Zeegon) (Trs)
**Advanced Management (Special) Course No 6 for USDA Executives concludes**

**Five aims of USDA laid down to serve interests of nation and people**

**Yangon, 20 July** — The Advanced Management (Special) Course No 6 for Executives of the Union Solidarity and Development Association concluded at the USDA Training School in Hmsby Township, here, this morning.

Secretary-General of the USDA U Htay Oo delivered an address at the concluding ceremony. He said that all the national people desire to witness the development of the Union of Myanmar. It is necessary to lay down a firm plan to bring about development tasks of the nation. The national people when the government is shaping the nation into a new peaceful, modern and developed one that the people long for. It is a good opportunity for the people to participate in the process of transition to a new nation. Based on good and evil legacy throughout the history of the country, the nation-building tasks are being undertaken with goodwill for emergence of a new nation. Drawing lessons from the past experiences, it is necessary to always strive for gaining good results for the State and the entire people.

Looking back to the Myanmar history after regaining Independence, precious time of the country was wasted due to division and disputes of those with dogmatism, racism, selfishness, personality cult and sectarianism, and the people lost their lives to armed insurgency. In 1988, disturbances and anarchism occurred in the nation due to instigation of some persons and political parties together with some external elements that had made attempt to seize the power of the State by shouting democracy and human rights. Lack of peace and stability will harm production, trade and development process of the nation. Successful govern-ments tried their utmost for prevalence of peace of the State and the people and implementing the national education promotion programme. The forming of the USDA was based on patriotic youths with a view to joining hands with the people in carrying out peace and development process of the nation. Five aims of the association were laid down to serve the interests of the nation and the people. Hence, the association members are to stand tall as a national force to shape the new democratic nation.

With the unity among the members of USDA, all are to implement aims and objectives of the USDA. In addition, members are to carry out the tasks for organizing entire people of the nation.

He quoted the guidance of the Head of the State given at the conclusion of Management Course No 8 for Executives of USDA as saying that the entire people had to safeguard present peace and progress of the nation that is the essence of perpetual sovereignty in accord with the national culture and custom.

There were some groups in the nation who were holding negative views. They are attempting to persuade and put pressure on members of USDA to follow their procedures. However, the patriotic people in cooperation with the Tatmadaw were to keep on marching towards a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The USDA, the national association, is established so as to carry out the noble tasks of the entire people. Therefore, all trainees are to work hard to improve their efficiency. He continued to say that all members are to observe the above-mentioned guidance.

Our country is home to various national races who are residing in unison. Union Spirit is flourishing among the national races. As a result, success in political, economic and social development drives has been achieved.

For building a new nation, the seven-step Road Map is being implemented. The people from all walks of life are attending the National Convention, which is in session. The association is committed to striving for successful realization of the Seven-Point Road Map and the National Convention joining hands with the people.

In conclusion, USDA Secretary-General U Htay Oo urged trainees to use the skills and knowledge gained during the training in the interests of local people, to make efforts for flourishing the patriotic spirit among the people, to cooperate with local people for peace and stability in respective regions and to strive for the success of the Seven-Point Road Map and the National Convention joining hands with the people.

Afterwards, U Htay Oo greeted the trainees cordially. Altogether 200 trainees from states and divisions attended the four-week course. — MNA
Panel of Alternate Chairmen presents collections of suggestions made by...

(from page 1)

intellectuals and intellectuals and delegations of members from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon and Rakhine States, Shan States, Kachin State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, delegates of state service personnel from the SDPC Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission Office, the Office of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Mandalay City Development Committee, and respective ministries, other invited delegations, delegates from Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, Shan State (East) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5 (KDA), Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayah State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-3, Kayinni National Democratic Party (KNPP) (Dragon), Group, Kayinni National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Hoya), Kayinni National Unity Solidarity Organization (Ma Ma Sa Na), Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization (DKBA) and Haungthaway Special Region Group who had returned to the legal fold, Nyeinchanyay Myothit Group from Pa-an Township of Kayin State, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine Group), Arakan Army (AA), Romein Region Development and Welfare Group, Shwepyyiaye (MTA), Mongpang People’s Military Group, Mon Peace Group (Chaukthu Region) and Mon (Breakaway) Nai Sai Chan Group that had exchanged arms for peace, delegates of national race groups that have returned to the legal fold and exchanged arms for peace, dean of military attaché Sr Col Le Van Thanh of Vietnam and military attaché of Cambodia, India, Japan, Thailand, Pakistan, Russia, Bangladesh, Korea, China, Malaysia, Laos and Indonesia.

Before the plenary session, the NCC chairman and members, the NCC Work Committee chairman and members, the NCC Management Committee and members of panel of chairmen, Deputy Director U Than Aung of the NCC Work Committee Office acted as MC and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-AC. The MC declared the start of the meeting with the permission of the alternate chairman as 10.58 out of 1071 delegates were in attendance, accounting for 98.79 per cent.

The panel of alternate chairmen presented collections of suggestions made by the respective delegate groups on laying down detailed basic principles for Election, Political Parties and Provisions on State of Emergency to be included in the State Constitution. First, U Maung Thant (Maung Su Shin) of NCC Work Committee presented a collection of proposals of respective delegate groups concerning the Election and so did U Maung Hla of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intellectuals read out the meeting as an alternate chairman together with U Myo Thant (Maung Su Shin) of NCC Work Committee, U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegate Group of Political Parties, U Maung Gyi of Delegate Group of Representatives-Elect, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Delegate Group of National Races, U Kan Nyun of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Kyaw Win Tun of Delegate Group of Workers, U Tin Kha of Delegate Group of State Service Personnel and Dr Ma Nan Tu Ja of Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons as members of panel of chairmen.

Afterwards, members of alternate chairmen U Kan Nyun of Delegate Group of Peasants, U Kyaw Win Tun of Delegate Group of Workers and Dr Maung Maung Wint of Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intellects read out a collection of proposals of the respective delegate groups concerning Provisions on State of Emergence.

The collection of proposals concerning the Political Parties and Provisions on State of Emergence will be reported in the newspapers.

Next, the plenary session went into recess at 9.35 am. The plenary session restarted at 9.55 am. Afterwards, member of alternate chairmen U Saw Philip (a) U Philip Sam of Delegate Group of Political Parties read out the collections of respective delegate groups concerning the Election and so did U Maung Hla of Delegate Group of Representatives-Elect and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Delegate Group of National Races concerning the Political Parties.

Next, the plenary session went into recess at 10.45 am and it restarted at 11 am.

The collection of suggestions concerning the Election are reported separately.

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Military attaches visit Plenary Session of the National Convention.

6. Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayah State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-3, Kayinni National Democratic Party (KNPP) (Dragon) Group, Kayinni National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Hoya), Kayinni National Unity Solidarity Organization (Ma Ma Sa Na), Democratic Kayin Buddhist Organization (DKBA) and Haungthaway Special Region Group who had returned to the legal fold, Nyeinchanyay Myothit Group from Pa-an Township of Kayin State, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine Group), Arakan Army (AA), Romein Region Development and Welfare Group, Shwepyyiaye (MTA), Mongpang People’s Military Group, Mon Peace Group (Chaukthu Region) and Mon (Breakaway) Nai Sai Chan Group that had exchanged arms for peace, delegates of national race groups that have returned to the legal fold and exchanged arms for peace, dean of military attaché Sr Col Le Van Thanh of Vietnam and military attaché of Cambodia, India, Japan, Thailand, Pakistan, Russia, Bangladesh, Korea, China, Malaysia, Laos and Indonesia.

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends ceremony to ...

Next, Chairman of Kachin State PDC Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint delivered an address. He said that Dunban Bridge is the 207th facility of its kind throughout the nation and the 17th over-180-foot bridge in Kachin State. As the government is constructing roads, bridges and airports for ensuring all-round development of the State, local people are to join hands with the government in the construction tasks. Furthermore, the local people are to safeguard and maintain newly-opened Dunban Bridge for its long-term use.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun also gave a speech. A local spoke words of thanks for opening of the bridge. The commander and the minister formally opened the bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the plaque of the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it.

Dunban Bridge is 216 feet long. It has 15.5 feet wide motor road and it can withstand 25-ton loads. Its clearance is eight feet high.

Commander, Minister meet Kachin State USDA members

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — Patron of Kachin State Union Solidarity and Development Association Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Secretariat Member of USDA Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw met with local residents including faculty members of Myitkyina University at the office of Kachin State USDA on 13 July. The commander and the minister clarified matters regarding regional development tasks, future programmes laid down by the USDA, rural area development drives and strength of members of USDA. They provided necessary assistance for social organizations. The commander and the minister visited public access centre of Kachin State USDA.

On 14 July, they went to Tanai Township and inspected Yuzana Multi-purpose Crop Cultivation Zone. Chairman of the zone U Htay Myint donated K1 million to Kachin State USDA. The commander and the minister met with members of Tanai Township USDA and fulfilled their requirements.

On 17 July, the commander and the minister arrived at Myitkyina District USDA and met district/township USDA members. They heard reports on realization of regional development tasks and attended to the needs.

Cookery course

YANGON, 20 July — A cookery course, conducted by Lannmadaw Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, was opened at Basic Education High School No 1 in Lannmadaw Township this Morning. Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai spoke on the occasion. She accepted 1,500 membership applications of MCWCA and cash donation. She presented health posters to responsible persons of township MCWCA and heard reports on health care services.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw accepts USDA membership applications presented by employees of Yuzana Company. — CPT

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint. — MNA

Ye Myint unveiled the plaque of the bridge and sprinkled scented water on it.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo on inspection tour of Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State

Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence visits Basic Education High School in Hlaingbwe. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naung Win, Kayin State PDC Chairman Brig-Gen Zaw Min and officials on 16 July morning inspected construction of Hlaingbwe Township Hospital (50-bed), donated school uniforms and stationery for basic education schools in the township at Hlaingbwe BEHS and attended a coordination meeting of Kayin State Committee for Boosting Oil Crops Production. The manager of Kayin State Agriculture Service of Kayin State reported on cultivation of 491,844 acres of oil crops in 2006-2007, 33 percent edible oil sufficiency and arrangements to be made for cultivation of 13,539 acres of oil crops in 2009-2010 to reach 101.42 per cent edible oil sufficiency. MAS General Manager U Hla Gyi reported on plans to boost oil crops cultivation and Brig-Gen Zaw Min on plans to ensure sufficiency of edible oil within three years. After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave a speech. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed developments in Hpa-an. — MNA

Second round of First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament continues

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — The second round of the First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament continued at Paunglaung Sports Ground in Pyinmana today.

In (BB) Group, the Ministry of Commerce beat the Ministry of Forest Team 3-0. Among the spectators were heads of department, officials of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Myanmar Football Federation, service personnel from different departments and enterprises and their families and sports enthusiasts.

Nay Zaw Aung, Zin Bo Aung Naing and Thet Lwin Win scored a winning goal each for the Ministry of Commerce. In (BB) Group, the Ministry of Finance & Revenue team will play against the Ministry of Cooperatives team on 21 July, in (CC) Group the Ministry of Information team will play against the Ministry of Rail Transportation team on 22 July, and in (CC) Group the Ministry of Sports team will play against the Ministry of Culture team on 23 July. The venue is Paunglaung Sports Ground.
The word “democracy” combines the elements demos (which means “people”) and kratos (“force, power”). It dates back to about 600 BC or more than 2600 years ago. Later, attempts were made to replace it with feudalism and monarchy.

During the 4th century BC, the population of Athens, one of the city states of ancient Greece, might well have comprised some 250,000—300,000 people. Citizen families might have amounted to 100,000 people and out of these some 30,000 would have been the adult male citizens entitled to vote in the assembly. In the mid-5th century the number of adult male citizens was perhaps as high as 60,000.

Hence, democracy or demokratos covered about 100,000. This excluded a majority of the population, namely slaves, children, women and resident foreigners doing business in the city state. The males of 21 years and above or some 40,000 could attend the assembly held ten times a year. The meetings discussed administrative, defence and judicial affairs. The meetings also formed councils and committees to implement the programmes.

Due to transport constraints, all the over 40,000 representatives were not able to attend those meetings. This being the case, the meetings were valid if there was 6,000 attendance. The decisions made by the majority of or more than 3000 representatives became resolutions. The direct democracy thus began to be practised in the history of administration.

In those city states, there arose inequality between the honest and poor people and bourgeois and merchants leading to conflicts. Regrettably, the practice of direct democracy ended.

During the periods of feudalism and monarchy, the vast stretches of land were owned by feudal lords and monarchs. In the time of industrial revolution, a large quantity of goods were produced resulting in the accumulation of capital. There emerged capitalists who owned means of production or a large number of mills and factories. As most people worked as serfs under the landlords in feudalism, the majority of people had to serve the capitalists as workers, whose life was much like that of slaves.

During the period of transition from feudalism to capitalism, the bourgeoisie class stripped the monarchs of their powers. In England under the reign of Charles I, bourgeoisie led by Cromwell rose against monarchy. Finally Charles I had to give in and the parliament took control of legislative, administrative and judicial powers.

The British Parliament is made up of the two chambers, the House of Commons or Lower House and the House of Lords. The former comprises members of Parliament (MPs) elected by the people of specific constituencies. The House of Lords, however, is made up of archbishops, bishops, hereditary peers and peeresses appointed by the monarch. This being so, democracy or England is often described as semi-democracy.

To be able to stand for election for the House of Commons, those capitalists who can lavishily spend on canvassing usually get elected. This is why it is branded as the capitalist parliamentary democracy.

The parliamentary system in which representatives are elected by the people and appointed by the monarch is therefore described as the constitutional monarchy.

As the population of the nations have increased to as many as 300 million the direct democracy is no longer practical. China, for instance, has 1,300 million population and India has about 1,100 million. All those reaching 18 years can vote. Women have equal rights with men. So, direct democracy meetings cannot be held and representative democracy is being practised.

In England during the 17th and 18th Centuries, industries of the capitalists conducted mass production.

The capitalists began to swallow small industries and there emerged monopolized capitalism. Afterwards, banks played a major role in economy thereby expanding production, commerce and services. As a result, financial capitalism came into existence. With the high growth of industries but with limited supply of energy and raw materials, the capitalists began to expand territories.

The best system for Myanmar is not Parliamentary Democracy in which sovereignty (three branches of the State power) is vested in a person only but it is the one in which the three branches of the State power are vested in, shared and practised by different levels. Head of State (President) practises the executive power, the Hluttaws practise the legislative power and the Union Court practises the judicial power. Although the three branches of power have been vested in the three organs principles on check and balance will be included in the constitution. Nations that share powers are stable. It is also found vividly that the constitutions of those nations are enduring.

The capitalists committed acts of aggression against the world nations living in peace and occupied and enslaved them with the use of force. About half a dozen colonial nations namely, England, France, Dutch, Portugal, Spain, Belgium plus the United State (latecomer) occupied 77 per cent of the earth. The capitalist (industrial) nations found very cheap energy, raw materials and labour in those colonies. At the same time, they saw that the colonies were ready markets for their products.

The British Parliament issued orders to the British capitalists and the latter’s pocket armies to enslave and occupy certain countries. For the expansionist capitalists the British Parliament was the democratic machinery which authorized them to freely trade, expand territories and exploit the colonies. Whatever name was used to describe them, the essence was that they exploited 75 per cent of the world population at will. The colonies were reduced to nothingness.

Some 300 years ago, the white men of Britain and some European nations invaded the land of the Red Indians in North America and established colonies there. When the number of colonies came to 13, they rose against the British government. On 4 July 1776, they declared independence from Britain and established the United States of America.

Finally, America that the European capitalist whites established was able to form up to 50 states as it had expanded its colonial empire. Even most of the islands in oceans and seas are shared by big powers like America, France, Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Former colonialist (European) industrialized nations including the US have developed their technologies very significantly. Nowadays, mills and factories can operate under the control of computers by just pressing a button. However high their technologies are and however sophisticated their machinery is, they cannot create rich natural resources such as coal, oil, natural gas and minerals by pressing a button. That is why attempts to expand empires and make colonies are being made by replacing the old form of colonialism that the UN abolished and the world did not accept at all with neocolonialism. Neocolonialists do not wish to buy raw materials and fuels at fair prices. They do not want to sell their finished products in simple, honest way. Therefore, today’s world have experienced acts of neocolonialism and commercial bullies and wars.

The UN abolished colonialism and issued global human rights declaration to enable the entire humanity to have freedom, completely void of enslavement. The UN Charter (the one signed by all the members of UN keeping promise to respect it) prescribes equal rights of all the global nations, no rights of any interventions and interferences, rights to be free from wars and rights to enjoy peace, security and developments. However, world news reports have highlighted the world’s notorious big nations that violated sovereignty and democracy and
From National Convention to new democratic nation

Tekkatho Myat Thu

The National Convention in session will be able to finalize the discussions on detailed basic principles for the remaining seven chapter headings. Soon after the National Convention is completed the State constitution will be drawn and approved by a referendum. The election will be held in accordance with the new Constitution adopted. Hluttaws will be convened to form a new government and hand over power to it. And a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation will be built successfully.

In a constitution principles that how to build a nation will be included. The delegates from all walks of life to the National Convention are holding discussion for drafting the State constitution that highlights the people’s desires. The National Convention which reconvened on 18 July 2007 will finalize discussions for the emergence of the State constitution representing the people.

In building a nation a government applies such systems as the Unitary State system or the Federal State System. Principles have already been laid down to build the Union of Myanmar, home to over 100 national races, under Federal State System in accordance with the history, geographical condition, national character, traditions and the wishes of the people. Having drawn lessons from the past that some unions have collapsed as they were broken up and some big nations are making attempts to break up unions in order to colonize them, the delegates to the National Convention unanimously laid down basic principles ensuring perpetuation of the Myanmar Union. In the 1947 Constitution and the 1974 Constitution there were only over 20 basic principles each as to the rights of a citizen. But the National Convention in session has laid down 50 basic principles and detailed basic principles for the State, rights and duties of a citizen.

In nations which practise Parliamentary Democracy (including Myanmar in AFPFL Period) the party leader, who won the majority (more than half) of seats of Members of Parliament in the election, came to power as the Head of State, formed the government at will and took control of the executive power in his hand. He also wielded the legislative power as he won the majority of votes. Not only that, he controlled the judicial power through the Justice Minister after appointing and forming a group of justices and lawyers.

It doesn’t mean that the system is not good. In most nations (including Myanmar in AFPFL period) it was found that governments had to step down very often as three branches of the State powers cannot be controlled by a person alone. In some nations there took place over 80 or up to 90 government changes during the period of 60 years. At a time when there have emerged various kinds of ideologies and parties coupled with instigation situation could be out of control should power is vested in a party leader only. Such events can be seen in the international news.

The best system for Myanmar is not Parliamentary Democracy in which sovereignty (three branches of the State power) is vested in a person only but it is the one in which the three branches of the State power are vested in, shared and practised at different levels. Head of State (President) practices the executive power, the Hluttaws practise the legislative power and the Union Court practises the judicial power. Although the three branches of power have been vested in the three organs principles on check and balance will be included in the constitution. Nations that share powers are stable. It is also found vividly that the constitutions of those nations are enduring. The delegates to the National Convention being held at Nyaungnhapan Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division are holding discussions and adopting the most suitable basic principles for the best benefits of the State only after thoroughly studying the world history and Myanmar history mentioned at the beginning of the article. The National Convention has already laid down principles that guarantee the perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar, that share the executive power capable of bringing about peace and development and that ensure the full rights of citizens.

In the meantime, the National Convention in session will be able to finalize the discussions on detailed basic principles for the remaining seven chapter headings. Soon after the National Convention is completed the State constitution will be drawn and approved by a referendum. The election will be held in accordance with the new Constitution adopted. Hluttaws will be convened to form a new government and hand over power to it. And a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation will be built successfully.

Translation: AK+ST+TS

(Myanmar Alin & Kyemon: 20-7-2007)
Ancient megaflood turned Britain into an island

BEIJING, 19 July — A megaflood about 400,000 years ago unleashed about 35 million cubic feet of water per second and broke apart a strip of land connecting what is now Britain and France, permanently separating them, a new study says.

The natural disaster took place during a glacial period. It was later followed by rising sea levels that created what is now the English Channel, the study says.

The study says the flooding may have ended migration by early humans and mammals such as horses across the land, which was at least 28 miles wide. It is not known if any humans died.

The theory that Britain became an island during a catastrophic flood was first proposed in the 1980s. But the new study, outlined in the scientific journal *Nature*, used high-resolution sonar data that were unavailable before to produce three-dimensional, high-quality imagery of the region.

In a commentary in the magazine, Prof Philip Gibbard, a geologist at the University of Cambridge, praised the study, saying: “It is no exaggeration to say that this Channel flood was probably ... one of the largest ever identified ... (and) it had profound long-term geographical consequences.” Gibbard was not involved in the study.

The study — by three scientists at Imperial College London and an official at the UK Hydrographic Office — says the megaflood occurred during the first major extension of a continental ice sheet into lowland central Europe and Britain.

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**A scene from ‘Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix’ in an image courtesy of Warner Bros. — XINHUA**
US supports Cambodia's bid to list
Preah Vihear Temple as world heritage site

PiNOH PENH, 19 July — The United States has expressed support for Cambodia's bid to officially register the Preah Vihear Temple as a world heritage site and will provide aid for its development and management plans, local media reported on Thursday.

US Ambassador Joseph A. Mussomeli here on Wednesday told Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Council of Ministers Sok An that the temple has to be officially registered as world heritage site even if there is opposition from the third side, press official for the Council of Ministers Phan Sithan was quoted by English-language newspaper Cambodian Daily as saying.

The United States will send a group of experts to Cambodia to help organize the development and management plans for the temple's official registration as world heritage site and also provide grant aid to support the plans, he said.

Recently, Long Visalo, deputy minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, told reporters that the world heritage committee of the United Nation's Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) asked Cambodia to organize the development and management plans for the Preah Vihear Temple after receiving the kingdom's request to list it as world heritage site.

The committee promised to decide whether the temple can be registered as world heritage site in early 2008. The Preah Vihear Temple was built from the 11th to the 12th century on top of the Drong Rek Mountain in the northern part of Cambodia next to Thailand. Cambodia secured its ownership of the temple in 1962, out of fierce competition with Thailand.

Study shows cancer-inhibiting gene also fights ageing

BEIJING, 19 July — A gene that fights cancer may also aid in the battle against ageing, according to a new study published in the journal Nature.

Manuel Serrano, a researcher at the Spanish National Cancer Research Center who worked on the study, said the findings could also lead to new drugs that prevent or fight cancer while extending healthy youth and lifespan.

Serrano said researchers genetically designed mice to have an extra copy of a key cancer-fighting gene called p53 and discovered it also played an important role in delaying the onset of ageing.

"Everyone agrees that the ageing is produced by accumulating faulty cells," Serrano said. "In other words, p53 delays ageing for exactly the same reason that it prevents cancer."

Previous cancer studies have revealed p53 can actually cause premature ageing symptoms by killing too many cells when it goes into overdrive, but Serrano said his research strictly regulated the gene so that it turned on only when needed.

The gene — and another that regulates signals to p53 — did their normal job of producing a protein that kills damaged cancer cells. But the researchers found that mice with an extra copy of the genes actually lived longer even when stripping out the impact of having less cancer.

Colliery fire claims six lives in Shanxi

TAIYUAN, 19 July — Six miners have been killed in a colliery fire in central China, only three days after a gas blast in another city that killed five miners.

The fire, caused by explosives stored in the mine, broke out at 8:00 am on Monday in the Wangjia Coal Mine in Sanjia Township, Gaoping City, Jincheng, southeastern Shanxi, when 57 miners were working.

All the miners managed to escape, but six of them died in hospital after inhaling excessive amounts of carbon monoxide.

Local authorities are investigating the cause of the accident. The Wangjia Coal Mine, with a designed capacity of 150,000 tons, was operating legally.

On Saturday, a blast rocked the ill-fated Yuanzigu Coal Mine in Hejin City of southwestern Shanxi, killing five people. The mine had been flooded on 24 June, when nine people died, but this was covered up by managers until the victims' families complained to the local government.

Police have detained 11 people who have been held accountable for the disaster and its cover-up, including mine owner He Yingze and four security personnel. — MNA/Xinhua
Czechs bounce Austria to reach under-20 World Cup final

EDMONTON (Canada), 19 July — Czech Republic beat Austria 2-0 on Wednesday to reach the final of the Under-20 World Cup where they will face Argentina or Chile.

The Czechs took the lead in just the fourth minute when Lubos Kalouda whipped in a free-kick from the left which Austria keeper Michael Zaglair failed to hold on to and Tomas Nicola tapped home.

Eleven minutes later the Czechs doubled their lead when Ondrej Kudela burst down the right and slipped over a low cross which Martin Fennin converted from close range.

Markus Suttner went close twice for Austria but, weakened by injury and suspension, they struggled to create chances against a well-organized Czech defence. Seven minutes from the end, though, Austria striker Rubin Okotie missed a glorious chance to reopen the game when left unmarked inside the area but headed wide.

Argentina and Chile face each other in the second semifinal in Toronto on Thursday with the final played on Sunday at the same venue. — MNA/Reuters

Japanese midfielder Suzuki suffers injury scare

HANOI, 20 July — Japan suffered an Asian Cup clash on Thursday when midfielder Keita Suzuki limped out of a training session ahead of their quarterfinal clash with Australia. Suzuki, Japan’s version of Italy hard man Gennaro Gattuso, walked gingerly to the sideline with a swollen right calf but is expected to be fit for Saturday’s showdown in Hanoi.

“He has some swelling and he just needed to see it down,” said Japan spokesman Fujoshi Nagamatsu.

“Tatsuo is already ready to replace him as soon as possible for a full recovery. He should be alright by tomorrow we hope.”

Suzuki is the only player to appear in all 13 games Japan have contested since Bosnian Ivica Osim took over as coach last year.

Osim will be desperate for the Urawa Reds enforcer to be fully fit to face a physical Australia side in a match many had expected would be the tournament final. — MNA/Reuters

Copa America winners Brazil regain top spot in rankings

ZURICH, 19 July — Brazil’s Copa America victory has helped moved them back to the top of FIFA’s world rankings.

The South Americans climbed up from third place after beating Argentina 3-0 in the tournament’s final on Sunday. Argentina are themselves up to second place, with World Cup champions Italy slipping from top spot to third in the latest monthly rankings published by FIFA on Wednesday.

Brazil were knocked off top spot in January, having previously led the rankings for an uninterrupted run of more than four years.

The recent flurry of matches on the American continent has also seen Mexico leap 16 places to 10th off the back of their appearance in the Gold Cup final and the semifinals of the Copa America.

Croatia have also broken back into the top 10, climbing from 11th to seventh place, while England and the Czech Republic have both slipped out of the top 10 after not playing any matches in the past month.

The Czechs fell one place to 11th with England dropping from eighth place to 12th.

The full top 10 (last month’s position in parentheses)

1. Brazil (3)
2. Argentina (5)
3. Italy (1)
4. France (2)
5. Germany (4)
6. Netherlands (7)
7. Croatia (11)
8. Portugal (6)
9. Spain (7)
10. Mexico (26)

Michelle McKeohan of the United States pulls through the water during the 100 meter breaststroke swimming finals of the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, on 19 July, 2007. McKeohan won the gold medal. — Internet

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Gisele Bundchen is Forbes’ richest model

B EIJING, 19 July — Gisele Bundchen, former girlfriend of three-time Academy Award-nominee Leonardo DiCaprio, tops Forbes’ annual list of the world’s 15 top-earning models, making 33 million US dollars last year, according to the list posted on Forbes.com.

Bundchen, 26, made more than three times as much as the number two model, Kate Moss (9 million dollars), the new face of fashion label Stella McCartney and Italian sports wear company Belstaff.

Victoria’s Secret beauties Heidi Klum (8 million dollars), Adriana Lima (6 million dollars) and Alessandra Ambrosio (6 million dollars) round out the top five.

The Brazilian supermodel parted ways with Victoria’s Secret in May and will see her lucrative contract with the lingerie brand expire at the end of the year.

Still, she boasts “more contracts than any other model on the planet,” according to Forbes.com, and has appeared in campaigns for high-end brands including Apple, Dolce & Gabbana and Roberto Cavalli.

The top five were followed by Carolyn Murphy (5 million dollars); Natalia Vodianova (4.5 million dollars); Karolina Kurkova and Daria Werbowy (both 3.5 million dollars); Gemma Ward (3 million dollars); Liya Kebede (2.5 million dollars); Hilary Rhoda and Shalom Harlow (both 2 million dollars); and Donatella Versace and Jessica Stam (both 1.5 million dollars).

Brazillian Gisele Bundchen, 1.8 m tall, is also a fashion model. Thanks to her handsome figure, she has won the favour of many famed designers and ranked within world top models of highest income. Her catwalk show is priced at 30,000 US dollars — Internet.

Earthquake report

Saturday, 21 July

(Issued at 18:30 hour MST today)
A moderate earthquake of intensity (5.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1000) miles Northwest of Kaba-Aye. Seismological observatory was recorded at (16) hrs (36) min (52) sec. MST on 20-7-2007.

Friday, 20 July, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hour MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Mawgyi Divisions, scattered in Kayin State, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy fall in Rakhine State and isolated heavy fall in upper Sagaing Division.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (12.09) inches, Minuk (7.17) inches, Kyauktaw (6.38) inches, Bago (2.09) inches and Thayawady (2.05) inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-7-2007 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 20-7-2007 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 20-7-2007 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 19-7-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 20-7-2007 was (0.47) inch at Mingaladon, (0.32) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.79) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (74.96) inches at Mingaladon, (80.12) inches at Kaba-Aye and (80.91) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (12:30) hour MST on 19-7-2007.

Forecast valid until evening of 21-7-2007:
Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Mawgyi Divisions, scattered in Kayin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Mon State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyarwady, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of decrease of rain in lower Myanmar areas.

Weather forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 21-7-2007: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 21-7-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 21-7-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for fourth weekend of July 2007: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Division.

Flood Warning

(Issued at 10:00 hr MST on 20-7-2007)
According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti is (1327) cm. It may exceed above its danger level (1360) cm during the next (24) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin river at Homalin is (2804) cm. It may reach its danger level (2900) cm during the next (36) hrs commencing noon today.

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends ceremony to commission Dunban Bridge in Phakant Township

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — A ceremony to inaugurate Dunban Bridge was held at the pandal near Dunban Village of Phakant Township on 18 July. Also present on the occasion were Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence said that today’s ceremony was to open Dunban Bridge crossing Dunbankha Creek on Myitkyina-Tanai-Pansauang-Ledo Road. The Ministry of Construction, some private organizations and Tatmadawmen are constructing roads and bridges in Kachin State. Nowadays, the people in Kachin State enjoy fruits of peace and stability. Mutual understanding and unity among the national brethren contributes to prevalence of law and order and flourishing of national unity. At present, Myitkyina-Shwebo road and Mandalay-Thabeikkyin-Tagoung-Shwegu-Bhamo road have been constructed as main roads of the state. Furthermore, Myitkyina-Namti-Tanai-Nanyun road, Myitkyina-Sumparabum-Putao road and Myitkyina-Bhamo road have been upgraded. Moreover, Sagaing-Htigyaing-Katha-Myeikhtan-Amatgyigon-Hsinbo-Akye-Myitkyina road is under construction as No 3 district-to-district road. In addition, Katha-Chaungwa-Shwegulay-Sinkham-Bhamo railroad is also being constructed.

To turn out educated human resources, universities and colleges were opened in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Mohynin regions. As a result, progress can be witnessed in Putao and Tanai plains in addition to Myitkyina, Bhamo and Mohynin. To turn out educated human resources, universities and colleges were opened in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Mohynin regions. As a result, progress can be witnessed in Putao and Tanai plains in addition to Myitkyina, Bhamo and Mohynin. Due to concerted efforts of the local national races, Kachin State has food and edible oil sufficiency. All the national brethren are to place emphasis on development and cementing unity of the union. In conclusion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged those present to maintain Dunban Bridge for its durability.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win participates in tree planting, inspects development in Monghkat Township

NAY PYI TAW, 20 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing participated in the physic nut trees planting ceremony in Monghkat Township, Shan State (East), on 18 July.

Members of social organizations and local people volunteered for growing physic nut trees on 10 acres of land. Monghkat Township set its target of 7,532 acres of physic nut in 2006 and over 1,000 acres were put under physic nut. In 2007, so far 771 acres have been put under physic nut and physic nut saplings are nurtured on 3,896 acres in the township against its target of 14,117 acres for 2007.

The delegates to the National Convention being held at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, are holding discussions and adopting the most suitable basic principles for the benefits of the State only after thoroughly studying the world history and Myanmar history mentioned at the beginning of the article. The National Convention has already laid down principles that guarantee the perpetuation of the Union of Myanmar, that share the executive power capable of bringing about peace and development and that ensure the full rights of citizens.

Collection of suggestions of NC delegates on Political Parties and Provisions on State of Emergency to be published

YANGON, 20 July — The collection of the suggestions made by NC delegates on laying down detailed basic principles for the chapters on “Political Parties and Provisions on State of Emergency” to be included in drafting the State Constitution at the plenary session of the National Convention at the Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, today, will be published in dailies.