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

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects rubber, paddy, physic nut farms, progress of Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project in Kalay

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May
— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Kalay Station, met families of Kalay Station at the station hall in Kalay on 28 May morning.

They attended the physic nut nurturing ceremony of departments in Kalay. The departments and social organizations set the target to grow 102 acres of physic nut in 2007. In Nyaungbintha Ward near Kalay-Tamu Road, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed thriving summer paddy and utilization of land.

Kalay District has put 13,069 acres of land under summer paddy plantations in 2006-07 and harvested 753 acres.

At the local battalion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report on cultivation of summer paddy presented by Lt-Col Tin Htut. The battalion grew 895.5 acres of monsoon paddy and 12.5 acres of summer paddy.

While in Kalay, they paid homage to the Buddha image at Maha Thakapatimar Yayhsan Kyunmyat Pagoda. Major Myint Thein of the local station reported on construction tasks. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin of Kalay Station gave supplementary reports. At the rubber farm of the local battalion, Lt-Col Ye Naing submitted reports on nurturing of rubber saplings. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. A total of 5,050 (See page 8)

INSIDE
Due to its location and topographical condition, Myanmar is rich in biodiversity. Myanmar people know the usefulness of many tree species. But the bad thing is that they rarely use other tree species, except teak. A visiting American once told me that teak was used as garden furniture only in his nation; and that Myanmar people would be very rich as they used teak as indoor furniture.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 1 June, 2007

Innovate to improve quality of industrial products

In its bid to ensure industrial development, the government is now taking necessary steps such as establishing industrial zones, building more factories and encouraging the import and export sector.

To contribute towards the drive, the industrial zones across the country including Kalay Industrial Zone have to boost production of marketable quality goods to enhance the security of their works.

Among them is Kalay Industrial Zone in Kalay, Sagaing Division, whose paddy husk-fired electric power plant generates electricity. The plant supplies electric power to Kalay Industrial Zone and four surrounding villages.

Kalay Industrial Zone runs communication services, generates electric power with the use of a paddy husk-fired power plant, and manufactures small-scale generators, Jeeps, various brands of automobiles and accessories, farm implements, equipment for general purpose, and aluminum household utensils on a commercial scale.

Experts and entrepreneurs concerned are, therefore, to seek innovations for boosting production of farm implements suitable for the region as well as quality machines for establishment of a tea factory in the region.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Appointment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Dr Toe Aung</td>
<td>Director-General Agricultural Research Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) U Aye Lwin</td>
<td>Director-General No 2 Basic Education Department</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) U Ohn Myint</td>
<td>Director-General Myanmar Education Research Bureau</td>
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<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Appointment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Dr Ba Maung</td>
<td>Director-General Deputy Historical Research Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) U Tha Oo</td>
<td>Managing Director Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Commander, Ministers attend fish releasing ceremony in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 30 May — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Secretariat member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, CEC member of the association Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspected fish farm of Waingmaw Township Fisheries Department on 28 May and attended to the needs.

Next, the commander and the ministers attended a ceremony to release over 500,000 fingerlings into the Ayeyawady River for 2007-08 in Kachin State.

Later, the Secretariat member and the CEC member went to sheep farm in Thaphan model village, Meiktila, Mandalay Division. Managing Director Dr Than Shwe of Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise reported on history of the farm and work to be done to the ministers. Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs. — MNA

Disbursement of loans to farmers supervised in Yangon South District

YANGON, 31 May — Managing Director U Tin of Myanma Agricultural Development Bank under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation inspected disbursement of loans from the bank to local farmers to grow monsoon crops in 2007 at bank branches in Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Kayan and Thongwa townships of Yangon South District yesterday.

Yangon Division plans to disburse over K 6,200 million to the farmers through 12 bank branches in this rainy season to carry out cultivation tasks in time.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and U Sai Maung Maung Myint and officials formally open Banner Store Super Market on 22 May.

MNA
Putin says US shield makes Europe “powder keg”

Moscow, 30 May—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday warned that the deployment of US missile shield in Europe would turn the continent into “a powder keg”. We consider it harmful and dangerous to turn Europe into a powder keg and to stuff it with new weapons, Putin told visiting Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates at the Kremlin.

“It creates new and unnecessary risks for the whole system of international and European relations,” he told Socrates, whose country takes over the European Union’s rotating presidency on 1 July. Russia’s Defence Ministry, meanwhile, said it had test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile featuring multiple warheads designed to overcome missile defence systems. In Minsk, the President of ex-Soviet Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, with whom Putin quarrelled over energy prices in the New Year, urged the Kremlin leader to act jointly with him to counter Washington’s plan more effectively.

“We are ready to act jointly with Russia, as long as the Americans are trying to deploy these systems in Europe. I think this is absolutely inadmissible,” Belarusian media quoted Lukashenko as telling governors from Russia’s Siberian regions. “We can take appropriate measures... But it is difficult to do it alone,” he said. “At the same time, Russia won’t be able to do a thing on its own at the Western border, because Russia has no troops between Moscow and the West.” Russia and Belarus have long planned to form a nebulous “union state” though Moscow has recently cooled to the idea. The two ex-Soviet republics share an integrated air defence system.

Lukashenko, accused in the West of crushing fundamental rights, criticized Russia in the New Year for increasing gas prices and removing preferential oil tariffs. But he has since urged Moscow to forget their spat and work for improved ties.

Spain sues over shipwreck bonanza

MADRID, 30 May—Spain has launched legal action against US marine explorers over a wreck they have found laden with treasure. The wreck has been described, speculatively, as a 17th Century vessel, found off the coast of England, containing $500m (£253m) in coins. However, there have also been rumours that it was found off Spain. Odyssey Marine Exploration would only say it was found in the Atlantic Ocean. A lawyer said if the vessel was Spanish any treasure would belong to Spain. Jim Goold, of the law firm Covington & Burling, representing the Spanish government, told the BBC: “The lawsuit will challenge Odyssey Marine Explorers’ right to recover or possess any property of the Kingdom of Spain recovered from sunken ships.

“Odyssey has been requested to provide information concerning the identity of the ship and the material recovered, and has failed to respond.” Odyssey would not make any further comment when contacted by BBC News. It has so far sent 17 tons of coins recovered from the wreck back to the US for examination. It says the discovery is the biggest of its kind.—Internet

US helicopter down in Afghanistan, seven killed

WASHINGTON, 30 May—A NATO helicopter has crashed in southern Afghanistan, killing the five-member crew and two military passengers. The US CH-47 Chinook helicopter went down at about 9 pm local time in Helmand province, NATO officials said.

The five crew members were all US soldiers, but NATO has not released the nationality of the two passengers.

A rescue team arriving at the scene was then ambushed by insurgents and called for an air strike.

Tourists take a picture with a sculpture by Igor Mitoraj in central Krakow, southern Poland, on 29 May, 2007.—INTERNET

MADRID, 30 May—Israeli troops shot and killed two Hamas militants on Tuesday in a gun battle that broke out during a cross-border raid into Gaza to search for gunmen, medics said, as part of moves to stop rocket fire into Israel.

The Israeli Army said it was checking the report. Hamas confirmed the incident and said its gunmen were involved in the shootout with Israeli troops less than a mile inside the central part of the Gaza Strip. Israel has repeatedly pounded the Gaza Strip with airstrikes, mainly targeting Hamas militants and structures used by the group, since mid-May. Palestinian militants have fired hundreds of rockets towards Israel, killing at least two people.

Israel kills two Hamas militants in Gaza raid

Gaza, 30 May—Israeli helicopters shot and killed two Hamas militants on Monday in a firefight in the central Gaza Strip. They were said to be part of a group that crossed into Gaza from Egypt.

MNA/Reuters

The picture shows a night view of the Shenyang Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, one of the five football venues of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, in Shenyang, capital city of northeast China’s Liaoning Province.—INTERNET

Spanish explorers have already been accused of illegally plundering the site of a Spanish shipwreck, with some claiming to have found a lost Spanish armada treasure worth $500m.

Tourists take a picture with a sculpture by Igor Mitoraj in central Krakow, southern Poland, on 29 May, 2007.—INTERNET

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MNA/Reuters
Abbas, Olmert to meet next week

Gaza, 30 May — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Tuesday he would meet Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert next week, keeping alive a US-backed dialogue despite Hamas rocket attacks on Israel.

"We have no intention of reaching any kind of settlement, neither with Hamas nor with Islamic Jihad. We will hit them and continue to hit them," Olmert said in remarks at Israel’s Parliament, referring to two of the main militant groups behind rocket attacks on Israel.

Olmert’s office said a meeting with Abbas was planned for next week but no specific date or location had been set. Israeli and Palestinian officials had previously said they expected the next meeting to take place in the West Bank city of Jericho.

Abbas, head of the Fatah faction that formed a unity government with Hamas two months ago, last met the Israeli leader on 15 April as part of US-brokered talks that were supposed to take place every two weeks.

The dialogue, which has focused on aspects of a future Palestinian state, has been delayed by Palestinian internal violence, Israeli-Palestinian fighting and Olmert’s uncertain political future following an inquiry critical of his handling of last year’s costly Lebanon war. — MNA/Reuters

Nine killed in bomb explosion in Nepal

Kathmandu, 30 May — Nine people were killed when a bomb went off at Gothahi Village Development Committee (VDC) in Palpa District, some 175 kilometres west of Kathmandu this morning, reported the local media houses’ website THT online Tuesday.

The bomb went off at the residence of Tara Bahadur Thada killing five family members and four guests.

According to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Bhim Prasad Dhakal, the locals from the area telephoned the police station in the Thada killing five family members and four guests. — MNA/Xinhua

Tea, chocolate chemical may boost memory

WASHINGTON, 30 May — It may be possible to boost memory with a plant compound called epicatechin, which is found in foods and drinks including blueberries, grapes, tea, and cocoa.

That’s according to a study published in The Journal of Neuroscience, the researchers included Fred Gage, PhD, of the genetics lab at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif.

In a series of lab tests, Gage’s team studied epicatechin, which is a type of antioxidant called a flavonol, in female mice.

Some of the mice drank water or chow laced with epicatechin and ran on a running wheel for two hours daily.

Other mice ran on a running wheel but didn’t get epicatechin. Another group of mice had no running wheel and got no epicatechin in their food or water.

After six weeks, the researchers tried to train the mice to navigate a watery maze. The mice were supposed to find a hidden platform in the maze within 40 seconds.

The mice that consumed epicatechin did better at memorizing the maze than the mice that got no epicatechin. The mice that consumed epicatechin and also ran on their running wheels had the best results of all.

The findings suggest that epicatechin may help spatial memory, especially when coupled with exercise, note Gage and colleagues. — Internet

Syria rejects US criticism of its referendum

DAMASCUS, 31 May — Syria rejected on Wednesday the US criticism of its recently held referendum on extending Bashar al-Assad’s presidential term for another seven years, saying Washington should solve its own problems in Iraq first.

Syria’s “advice” to the United States is “to stop interfering in the affairs of others and try to solve the problems they brought to their country, such as the wrong war in Iraq,” an unnamed official source was quoted as saying by the official SANA news agency.

In Sunday’s referendum, Assad won 97.62 per cent of votes, which Syrian Interior Minister Bassam Abdel Majeed said Tuesday that the referendum showed “the political maturity of Syria and the brilliance of our democracy and multiparty system”.

But US State Department spokesman Tom Casey criticized immediately that “I think it’s pretty hard to suggest that any kind of election can be free, fair or credible when you’ve only got one candidate and that candidate receives about 98 per cent of the vote”.

The Syria Foreign Ministry source expressed surprise over the US rebuke, saying what happened in Syria exhibited the national consensus and popular support to President Assad which was a sincere expression of national unity displayed by the Syrians. — MNA/Xinhua

A teacher explains knowledge about aeronautics and astronautics to students at the Children’s Activity Centre in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 30 May, 2007. The centre started a series of science popularization activities to greet the coming International Children’s Day on 1 June. — Xinhua

The Sino-Russian Committee of Friendship, Peace and Development opened its seventh plenary meeting in Moscow on 30 May. Presidents of both countries sent their greetings to the participants. — Xinhua
India, UAE agree to push economic ties

NEW DELHI, 30 May — India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday agreed to push their economic ties, even as they exchanged a set of demands that will expand bilateral trade and investments, Indo-Asian News Service reported here.

At a meeting here between India’s Commerce Minister Kamal Nath and the UAE’s Economy Minister Shaikha Lubna Al Qasimi, India sought permission for Indian banks to open branches in the Gulf country.

IANS reported that Nath also requested the visiting minister to lift a ban on the import of poultry products from India and the removal of trade barriers in areas like work permits, visas and import of pharmaeuticals, chemicals and allied products.

The UAE, in turn, referred to some anti-dumping measures taken by India on their products and companies.

The two ministers later led their respective sides for the first India-UAE Trade Policy Forum where it was felt that the bilateral trade must be enhanced from the level of 12.9 billion US dollars in 2005-06.

IANS reported that India’s exports to the UAE were valued at 8.59 billion US dollars and imports from the UAE at 4.31 billion US dollars.

Cuba, India extend renewable energy cooperation agreement

HAVANA, 30 May — Cuba and India have extended a renewable energy cooperation agreement to 2009, the Granma newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Vilas B Muttemwar, India’s Renewable Energy Minister who was on a visit here, said that the agreement will consolidate Cuba’s strategies for hydroelectric, wind, thermal and photovoltaic solar power generation.

“Cuba can count on all our support,” Muttemwar said, adding that India, the fourth largest nation in wind-power electricity generation, would also offer study grants under its Indian Technical Cooperation Programme.

Cuba is the only Latin American nation to have a renewable energy treaty with India, which was signed in 1998.

The minister also said that India does not support the use of fuel made from crops, but instead backs plans for hydrogen-powered vehicles. — MNA/Xinhua

China to regulate natural gas imports from 10 June

BEIJING, 30 May — The Chinese Government plans to introduce new measures on 10 June to regulate imports of natural gas in order to protect its three major gas importers from intense domestic competition.

Sources with the Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday that the move would end the chaotic competition between China’s three oil and gas giants — China National Petroleum Corp, Sinopec and China National Offshore Oil Corp — in the purchase of gas, which has helped overseas exporters raise prices.

The competition has been blamed on the lax import system for natural gas that is currently in place. Enterprises, at present, do not have to satisfy any conditions to obtain import permits for natural gas. After 10 June, each application for an import permit will be examined and approved.

China aims to slash its energy consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP by 20 per cent by 2010 so natural gas, seen as an ideal way to meet this target, is now in huge demand nationwide.

Apart from the Big Three, enterprises controlled by local governments have joined the competition for gas imports, which is contributing to a further hike in prices.

According to the National Development and Reform Commission, Indonesian exporters have adjusted the price of LNG (liquefied natural gas) from 25 US dollars per barrel to 38 US dollars per barrel for Chinese buyers in eastern China’s Fujian Province. The commission also revealed that the price of natural gas exported by Russia to China is likely to be raised to 180 US dollars per 1,000 cubic metres.

Non-fossil fuels to contribute 30% to China’s energy use in 2050

BEIJING, 30 May — Non-fossil fuels will account for 30 per cent of China’s energy consumption in 2050, compared with the current 10 per cent, the China Securities Journal declared on Tuesday.

The whole world is conscious of the need to reduce emissions from fossil fuels and to develop carbon-constraining technologies.

Fossil fuels, also known as mineral fuels, are hydrocarbon-containing natural resources such as coal, petroleum and natural gas.

Coal is considered to be the cheapest and dirtiest source of energy in the world. Even though China’s per capita greenhouse gas emissions are lower than countries like the United States or Australia, its heavy reliance on coal makes it a major polluter and a major contributor to the emissions that cause climate change. By 2050, about 40 per cent of China’s energy consumption will still come from the burning of coal, compared with the current 70 per cent, the report quoted Yan Luoguang, a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as saying. — MNA/Xinhua
Nepal to host education, book fair

KATHMANDU, 30 May — The Nepal Education and Book Fair 2007 is being organized on 1-9 June in Kathmandu, a Press release issued by the organizers on Tuesday stated.

Organized by Global Exposition and Management Services in association with the National Booksellers and Publishers Association of Nepal, the fair is divided into two segments — education and career expo, and book fair.

While the education and career expo will be held till 4 June, the book fair will carry on till 9 June.

According to the Press release, the fair aims to bring in various career oriented institutions — educational institutions, overseas study consultants, training institutes, schools, colleges, universities, publishing houses, non-governmental organizations and professionals together under a single roof for the benefit of career conscious people and general people alike.

It also aims at providing books and publications to needy students, professionals and readers, and to encourage reading habit among general people as well.

According to the organizers, around 100 universities, colleges, and institutions, and more than 50 publishers and book sellers from home and abroad are participating in the fair putting up 160 stalls.

The international participants include those from India, Britain, the United States, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, among others, the release said.

Eight US soldiers die in Iraq chopper crash, ambush

BAGHDAD, 30 May — Two US military personnel were killed when their helicopter came down under enemy fire north of Baghdad and six more died when a column of vehicles heading to the crash site was ambushed, the US military said on Tuesday.

The deaths on Monday brought the US military death toll in Iraq to 112 this month, making May the deadliest for 2007 and month, making May the deadliest for 2007 and 2008.

Eight US soldiers were killed when their vehicles were hit by roadside bombs.

Militants have employed similar tactics in the past — shooting down a helicopter and then ambushing the rescue force.

Insurgents have shot down at least nine helicopters this year, killing 30 people, mainly American soldiers. Seven of those aircraft were US military helicopters and the other two belonged to a private American security company.

Sporadic clashes rattle north Lebanon camp

NAHR AL-BARED (Lebanon), 30 May — Sporadic fighting erupted on Tuesday between the Lebanese Army and Sunni Islamist militants holed up in a battered Palestinian camp and there was no sign of an end to the 10-day standoff.

The clashes at the Nafr al-Bared camp in north Lebanon occurred while scores of Palestinian refugees in the Beddawi camp, who had fled from nearby Nafr al-Bared, held a protest to demand a permanent ceasefire to let them return home.

Intermittent clashes between Lebanese troops and al-Qaeda-inspired Fatah al-Islam militants have punctured a fragile truce that was enforced last week to allow Nafr al-Bared’s 40,000 refugees to flee due to lack of food, water and power.

One Lebanese soldier was killed early on Tuesday, bringing the death toll in Lebanon’s worst internal fighting since the 1975-1990 civil war to at least 79 people — 34 soldiers, 27 militants and 18 civilians.

The Lebanese Government has demanded the militants surrender and face justice.

Palestinian leaders mediating in the standoff say the Fatah al-Islam group refuses to hand over its fighters.

Turkey asks US not to violate its airspace again

ANKARA, 30 May — Turkey asked the United States formally on Tuesday to avoid another violation of its airspace after an incident that exposed tensions between the NATO allies.

Last week, two US F-16 warplanes briefly infringed Turkish airspace near the Iraqi border. US diplomats say the incident was an “accident”. Turkish media say it was intended to send a message to Ankara not to send its troops into northern Iraq.

“After we received detailed technical information from the General Staff on the incident, the necessary diplomatic initiative was made today in the presence of (a representative of) the US embassy,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. A Turkish Foreign Ministry official told Reuters: “In the note given (to the embassy representative) it was requested that this kind of incident not be repeated.”

A geisha dances during a performance as part of a geisha conference to promote tourism in Chikuma, Nagano Prefecture on 30 May, 2007. Forty geishas attended the conference and participated in performances and a panel discussion.

INTERNET

Hong Kong actor Danny Chan (L), a martial arts movie star and Bruce Lee impersonator, performs during the filming for the television series “The Legend of Bruce Lee” in Foshan, south China’s Guangdong Province on 29 May, 2007.

INTERNET

A geisha dances during a performance as part of a geisha conference to promote tourism in Chikuma, Nagano Prefecture on 30 May, 2007. Forty geishas attended the conference and participated in performances and a panel discussion.

INTERNET

Tiger cubs play with chicks at a zoo in Wenling, Zhejiang province, on 29 May, 2007. The chicks, who were not harmed by the cubs, were feeding at a nearby river before entering the tigers’ cage. It is the first time zoo staff have witnessed such an occurrence, China Daily reported.

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INTERNET
Let’s use teak sparingly

Win Hlaing Kyaw

Once, a Myanmar king consulted with his court minister to choose a timber species to make the main post for holding the sacred umbrella of a pagoda he was going to build. The court minister advised him to use teak. The king considered using other tree species for the purpose. But the minister humbly and cleverly insisted on using teak as it is the best hardwood. Although Myanmar had plenty of teak forests, the king thought about using other hardwoods even for a religious purpose as he wished to save teak he valued so much.

We the Myanmar people know very well about the quality of trees and bamboo as we have owned large stretches of valuable forests since ancient days. So, it is no wonder that Myanmar people love teak so much for its high quality. In many cases, Myanmar people have never preferred using other timber species including pyingadoe, padauk, thingan etc other than teak.

Myanmars use teak as it is available in large quantities. The ratio of teak trees in any forest is largest among hardwoods in Myanmar. According to the data released by Forest Department, about 200,000 tons of teak and about 1.3 million tons of other timber species can be extracted each year from Myanmar forests without harming the environment and forest resources. Production of teak is largest among the over 80 tree species designated for commercial use.

Because of its high quality, teak is famous all over the world, and its global demand is ever growing. The price of a teak board in the US market is from US$ 10 to US$ 20 per foot depending on its width. Official statistics indicate that annual domestic use of teak logs is between 20,000 and 30,000 tons. If those teak logs are exported at an average price of US$ 500 per ton, we can fetch another US$ 10 to 15 million every year.

Officials concerned have already asked the people to save teak, and to use it only in decorating historical cultural edifices and state buildings. We need to substitute teak with other hardwood species. There are other quality tree species that are good for specific use although they cannot match teak equally. In this world, there are lesser known species and lesser used species. But Myanmar has almost no lesser known species, it has only lesser used species.

Due to its location and topographical condition, Myanmar is rich in biodiversity. We know the usefulness of many tree species. But the bad thing is that they rarely use other tree species, except teak. A visiting American once told me that teak was used as garden furniture only in his nation; and that Myanmar people would be very rich as they used teak as indoor furniture.

Only quality timber species like teak can be used for making indoor furniture in his country with frigid weather. But they use other species. Myanmar has many timber species that can be used for making indoor furniture. As the properties of some species are not different from one another they can be used together for a single purpose. But the important thing is to use them.

Teak grows naturally only in four countries of the world, and of them, Myanmar has the largest area of teak. Other three cannot produce teak in large quantities. It will be not wrong if we say that Myanmar is the only substantial source to fulfill global teak demand. In this regard, the imbalance in market demand and production has skyrocketed teak prices. Foreign countries value teak so much.

According to scholars and experts in forestry, there are a lot of unnecessary use of large and thick teak blocks and boards in Myanmar. For example, parquets and plywoods manufactured in Myanmar are broader and thicker than normal. In foreign countries, even 18-mm or 0.75-in in thickness is accepted as normal. Wide and thick boards are used only in making decks. Lamin boards and finger jointed boards are used in making indoor furniture and partitions. In those countries three-millimetre thick teak veneers are stuck on other invaluable species used as cover to decorate furniture.

The above-mentioned practice makes teak furniture economical and available for more people. The most popular 9"x3"x1" parquet is the largest of its kind in the world. If its thickness is reduced to 0.75 inch, we can witness a 25 per cent increase in the production and benefits in terms of economy and forest and environmental conservation. If thickness is reduced to 0.5 inch, parquet production will increase two times. Besides, we do not need to worry about strength of those thin parquets. According to some Malaysian scholars, their country is even using parquet with only 0.25 inch in thickness. The main important thing is to make the surface of the concrete floor on which parquet will be laid even to the most possible degree and systematic wood preparation.

It is high time the public realized that they should use less teak and more substitute species. We should strictly control teak use. King Alaungmintaya in 1752 issued a decree to designate teak as a royal timber. At present, teak production permission is given only to the State-owned Myanmar Timber Enterprise, and no private enterprise is allowed to cut teak trees. But we should control the use of teak. We should start to distribute furniture and social goods made with lesser used species to the public. We can reduce teak consumption by encouraging the use of lesser used species.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects rubber, paddy, physic nut farms...

(from page 1)

rubber saplings are being nurtured at the farm.

They attended the physic nut growing ceremony of the local station. The station has so far grown 1,418.18 acres of physic nut against the target of 1,200 acres in 2007.

At the hall of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise near Mawlaikklay Village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on cultivation of rubber and land preparations presented departmental officials. He instructed them to provide assistance to entrepreneurs for cultivation of rubber and carry out land reclamation for the rubber farms.

Departments and entrepreneurs in Kalay Township put 83 acres of land under rubber in 2005-06 and 220 acres in 2006-07. They plan to extend 2,247 acres of rubber in 2007-08.

Afterwards, they attended the physic nut growing ceremony of the station near Kanthaya Village on Kalay-Tamu Road.

At Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project being implemented by Construction-4 of Irrigation Department on Nayrinzara Creek near Yazagyo Village of Kalay Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on facts about the dam project and progress of tasks presented by Director U Victor of ID. They inspected land preparations, construction of the spillway and the main embankment.

They viewed undertakings of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of the families of the local station by car.

At the physic nut farm-1 of the station, Col Kyi Naing reported on growing of physic nut. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

A total of 208,800 physic nut plants are grown on the 174-acre farm.

In Kyikon Station, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met family members. He instructed them to join hands with local people in realization of five rural development tasks upholding Our Three Main National Causes, to carry out agriculture and livestock breeding tasks, and grow perennial crops and physic nut.

After cordially greeting the family members, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected agriculture and livestock breeding tasks on commercial scale of the family members.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party spent the night in Kalewa.

Regional development of Kachin State inspected

Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspect direct seeding in fields of Yuzana Co Ltd. — MNA

Yangon, 31 May — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspected work at the auto-exchange in Namati on 26 May.

The commander and the ministers met with departmental staff of Mogaung, Mohnyin, Pharkant and Hopin Townships, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townelders.

The secretary of Kachin State USDA accepted 954 membership applications from residents of Namati. The commander provided medicines for Namati Hospital and the ministers presented exercise books and USDA uniforms to the responsible person.

They later went to Multi-purpose Agricultural Project of Yuzana Co Ltd in Wazayat Village in Pharkant Township and observed the rice mill run by paddy husk-fired. At the briefing hall of the project, responsible persons of the company reported on growing of 200,000-acre crops including sugarcane in Tanaing region, reclamation of 200,000 acres for growing rubber of Fadeland Myanmar Company, nursery plantation and fish farm. And the commander and the ministers attended to their needs.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Lwaikhaw Village in Myitkyina Township and viewed 1500-acre teak plantations. In Shudaung Village, they inspected thriving rubber plantations.

On 28 May, the commander and the ministers paid obeisance to the Sayadaw of Wuntho monastery in Myitkyina and donated offerings to the Sayadaw. In Myitkyina, the commander and the ministers met the trainees who will attend BEEd Course at University for Development of National Races and presented cash and kind to them. Next, cash assistance rendered by USDA for Myitkyina Education College was presented by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and uniforms by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.— MNA

Minister receives guests

NAY PYI TAW, 31 May — Minister for Electric Power No-2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Mr Joseph Ong Heglonal, Sales Manager of EMERSON of the Republic of Singapore, and party at his office here yesterday.

Also present at the call were Director-General Dr Thein Tun of Electric Power Department, Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise, Chief Engineers U Aye Thaw and U Than Lwin and officials concerned.— MNA

KMD Computer Centre presents post-diploma, diploma and degree

YANGON, 31 May — KMD Computer Centre presented certificates of post-diploma, diploma and degrees to those who got highest marks at Myanmar Info-Tech on 30 May.

Managing Director U Thuang Tin of KMD Group of Companies extended greetings on the occasion. Mr Alan Smart of Cultural Attaché & Director of British Council, Myanmar, Miss Elizabeth John of NCC Education Limited Business Development Manager made speeches on the occasion.

Certificates of honour were presented to Maung Phyo Thu Win who won Global High Achiever Award, Ma Khin La Pyae Win in Asia Regional High Achiever Award and Ma Chaw Thinzar Maung in International Diploma in Computer Studies (ICSCs) in December 2006 Examination.

Maung Phyo Thu Win and Ma Chhin La Pyae Win won scholarship to attend BCIS course and Ma Chaw Thinzar Maung to attend IADCS course. NCC Education presented 200 pounds each to them.
Energy Minister receives Russian Ambassador

NAV PYI TAW, 31 May — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Ambassador of the Russian Federation Dr Mikhail M Geladze and Vice-President Mr Maxim Ogorodnikov of Razonimport Holding Co of the Russian Federation and party at his office, here, yesterday morning.

The participants discussed the projects submitted by the ASEAN+3 countries, approved the future tasks adopted by the Second Meeting of NEACH, selected the host country to organize the Fourth Meeting and review the First Meeting on SOMCA Working Group on Networking on ASEAN Cultural Heritage (NACH) and the Third NEACH Meeting.

Meeting Chairman Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presided over the meeting.

Representatives of ASEAN countries and partner countries Japan, the Republic of Korea and the People’s Republic of China discussed preservation of ASEAN+3 cultural heritage, safeguarding national gems and cultural properties, preservation of the past cultural heritage, cultural intellectuals and traditions of present experts and artisans, matters related to cultural heritage policy and legislative matters, prevention against illicit trafficking of cultural heritage and country-wise and region-wise development of ASEAN+3 cultural networking.

Third Meeting of NEACH, First Meeting of NACH continue for second day

NAV PYI TAW, 31 May — The Third Meeting of ASEAN+3 of Networking of East Asia Cultural Heritage (NEACH) and the First Meeting of the Senior Officials Meeting on Cultural & Art Working Group on Networking on ASEAN Cultural Heritage (NACH) continued for the second day at Hotel Mandalay in Mandalay this morning.

Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presided over the meeting.

The participants discussed the projects submitted by the ASEAN+3 countries, approved the future tasks adopted by the Second Meeting of NEACH, selected the host country to organize the Fourth Meeting and review the First Meeting on SOMCA Working Group on Networking on ASEAN Cultural Heritage (NACH) and the Third NEACH Meeting.

Meeting Chairman Director-General U Aung Bwa of ASEAN Affairs Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN Culture and Information National Committee Director-General U Sam Win of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department gave concluding remarks.

In the evening, Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN Culture and Information National Committee U Sam Win hosted a dinner in honour of the representatives of ASEAN+3 countries at Hotel Mandalay.

Two lose limbs in blasts in Myawady, Kyaukkyi

YANGON, 31 May — A villager of Htiw Palaw Village in Myawady Township, Kayin State, lost his right foot as he stepped on the mine planted by insurgents on 28 May.

Saw Hpa Li, the victim of the blast, stepped on the mine on his way to the hill near the village to pluck fruits. He was rushed to the hospital in the township.

Similarly, Ko Naing of Htaikpauk Village, Pattala Village-tract, Kyaukkyi Township, Bago Division, lost his left foot on 28 May. The victim stepped on a mine planted by insurgents on his way to a jungle near the village to pick up vegetables and the mine exploded. He was rushed to Kyaukkyi Hospital.

Companies in S’pore urged to employ more older workers

SINGAPORE, 31 May — Employers in Singapore on Wednesday were urged to reemploy more older workers at a tripartite forum involving employers, government and unions.

According to local television Channel NewsAsia reports, the National Trades Union Congress’s (NTUC) Assistant Secretary-General Halimah Yacob urged the tripartite partners to change mindsets about working beyond the retirement age of 62 year old. The forum concluded to showcase some of the best practices Singapore companies have adopted in the employment of older workers, thinking such showcasing would encourage many more companies to follow suit, the TV channel reported.

The employers were also urged to make the reemployment of older workers a policy in companies.

Unionists wanted to know if a five-year time frame is too long before legislative changes are made to allow older workers to continue working beyond 62. Legislative changes were made in Singapore in 1993 to put the retirement age at 60, and then to move it up again from 60 to 62 years in 1999.

Mr Dragoc Janekovic, Charge d’Affaires ai of Serbian Embassy, explains painting exhibition on six Serbian artists.

Mr Dragoc Janekovic, Charge d’Affaires ai of Serbian Embassy, Mr Dragoc Janekovic disclosed the arrangements to display the works of six artists. The exhibition is aimed at introducing Servian art of painting and scenic beauties.

The water-colour works of female artist MA Stojanka Djordjic Nikolic are due to be displayed at 3 pm on 8 June at Hinthar Art Gallery on Inya Myaing Road in Bahan Township, here. The exhibition continues till 19 June.

Companies in S’pore urged to employ more older workers
Tourists to Cambodia up 20% in first 4 months

PHNOM PENH, 31 May — Cambodia saw a 20-per-cent increase in the number of tourist arrivals for the first four months of 2007, compared with the same period last year, local media reported on Wednesday.

Some 710,000 visitors arrived between January and April and the majority were South Korean and Japanese, French language daily newspaper the Cambodge Soir quoted Tourism Minister Thong Khon as saying.

The rise stemmed partly from improved connecting roads with neighbouring Vietnam and Thailand, and from better security and marketing efforts, he said.

“Although Japanese and South Korean tourists still take the lead in terms of numbers, we note that there has been a 70-per-cent increase in Vietnamese tourist arrivals and a 38-per-cent increase in Thai tourist arrivals,” he said.

The newly-appointed minister stressed that the country. It also found that more than 96 per cent of the respondents wanted a ban on cigarette advertising, reported Cambodian daily newspaper the Koh Santepheap.

Visitor arrivals in Singapore up 0.2% in April

SINGAPORE, 31 May — Singapore received 818,000 visitor arrivals in April this year, up 0.2 per cent year-on-year, according to the figures released by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) on Wednesday.

Visitor days were estimated to reach three million, an increase of 11.6 per cent in comparison to April last year, the STB said.

MNA/Xinhua

A crowd of people watch two whales pass under the Carquinez Bridge in Crockett, Calif, on 29 May, 2007. The whales lost in the Sacramento River made considerable progress in their quest to return to the Pacific Ocean. They were first spotted on 13 May and got as far as 90 miles inland to the Port of Sacramento before turning around. — Internet
Malaysia ready to have nuclear power plant by 2020

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 May — Malaysia is ready to have a nuclear power plant to generate electricity by 2020, a Malaysia official said on Wednesday.

The Malaysian Government would implement the plan after people in the country well know the use and benefits of nuclear power and accept it, said Mohd Ruddin Ab Ghani, parliamentary secretary of the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

Efforts to raise people’s awareness about nuclear energy had started through workshops, seminars and conferences in the country, he told reporters in Langkawi, a tourism island in northern Malaysia, when the International Conference on Protection from Radiation 2007 was opened there.

Mohd Ruddin stressed that electricity generation from nuclear energy was important as petroleum and coal reserves were being depleted.

Although the cost of building nuclear plants was high, the production cost would be cheaper, he added.

The three-day conference was organized by the Malaysian Nuclear Agency, which reportedly has a research nuclear reactor currently.

Airbus likely to pay MAS for delayed “A380” delivery

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 May — Airbus is likely to compensate Malaysia Airlines (MAS) as it failed to deliver Airbus A380 as scheduled.

Airbus Chief Operating Officer John Leahy had said that MAS will be compensated for the delay, according to Malaysia’s national news services Bernama on Wednesday.

Airbus was still in talks with the Malaysian national carrier for the delay in delivery of the A380 superjumbo aircraft, Airbus spokesman Anthony Phillip told a media briefing here on Wednesday.

But he declined to further comment, according to Bernama.

MAS ordered six Airbus A380 jumbos with 1.8 billion US dollars in 2003 with the first delivery scheduled in early 2007.

However, under a revised schedule, MAS will receive the first A380 aircraft in late 2009, Bernama said.

Airbus reportedly was in talks with MAS after it sorted out the delay issue with Singapore Airlines, Qantas and Korean Air.

Syrian FM urges to end siege against Palestinians

DAMASCUS, 31 May — Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem on Wednesday called for an end to the unjust siege against the Palestinian people and support for their national unity government.

Muallem made the call during a meeting with Jerusalem Archbishop in exile Hilarion Capucci, the official SANA news agency reported.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in the Middle East, especially the occupied Palestinian territories, in light of the continued arbitrary practices by Israel against the Palestinian people and its desecration of Muslim and Christian sanctities.
Palm launches smartphone companion “Foleo”

BEIJING, 31 May—Palm Inc. on Wednesday unveiled a new compact portable computer designed to synchronize with a smartphone for wireless web use and e-mail applications.

The new device called a Palm Foleo (L) and Treo smartphone.—INTERNET

Internet

A Palm Foleo (L) and Treo smartphone. —INTERNET

“Foleo” has a 10-inch screen and full-size keyboard, weighs 2.5 pounds and has a five-hour battery life. It stays connected to its companion smartphone through a Bluetooth wireless link and supports Internet browsing with either its own Wi-Fi card or the smartphone’s radio. But it also works on its own as a mini-laptop.

“Ultimately, it will make smartphones more successful,” Company founder Jeff Hawkins said in an interview, “It allows us to rethink how you design smart phones.” The Foleo mobile companion uses the Linux operating system and comes with software to create and edit Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents and view PDF files. It is priced at 599 US dollars before a 100 dollars rebate beginning this summer.

Analysts, however, said mass appeal for the Foleo is not likely, since only a portion of the smartphone users will be interested in carrying a separate device and many business travelers prefer to carry a smartphone and a full laptop computer.

Study shows pesticides increase Parkinson’s risk

LONDON, 30 May—Another study has found that exposure to pesticides involved in the development of Parkinson’s disease, according to a press report on Wednesday.

People exposed to low levels of pesticides had a 13 percent higher risk of developing the disease, and those exposed to high levels a 43 percent greater risk, researchers from Aberdeen University found, the daily Times reported. The latest study aimed to identify factors that can accelerate or decrease the disease.

The researchers compared the lifetime experiences of around 1,000 Parkinson’s sufferers with those of 2,000 unaffected people in Scotland, Italy, Sweden, Romania and Malta.

Macedonia police seize over three kilos of heroin

SKOPJE, 30 May—Macedonian police have seized 3.2 kilos of heroin at a border crossing and three people were detained on suspicion of drug smuggling, local media reported on Monday.

Acting on tips, police on Sunday searched a taxi near Skopje, Macedonia’s border crossing with Kosovo, and found the drugs stashed on board. Macedonian Information Agency, the country’s official news agency, reported. Police detained two passengers in the taxi, who were supposed to deliver the drugs to Kosovo, and later arrested another man, who was involved in the smuggling.—MNA/Xinhua

Macedonia police seize over three kilos of heroin

Study shows pesticides increase Parkinson’s risk

INTERNET

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Study shows pesticides increase Parkinson’s risk

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Internet
Russia’s Marat Safin returns the ball to Serbia’s Janko Tipsarevic during the second round match of men’s singles at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros, Paris, France, on 30 May, 2007. Safin lost the match 0–3.—INTERNET

Bayern confirm Toni deal

MUNICH, 30 May—Bayern Munich president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has confirmed the signing of Italian star Luca Toni.

The former Germany international striker announced that Bayern had agreed a deal with Fiorentina worth “exactly euro11m (£7.5m)” for the 30-year-old World Cup winner.

“Yes, we have agreed terms with the player,” he told dpa. “He will sign a deal with us through to 30th June 2011. He will come to Munich for a medical on 8th June and will then be officially presented.”

Toni has scored 47 goals in two seasons with Fiorentina and in 2005/06 became the first player in almost 50 years to score more than 30 goals in one season in Serie A.—INTERNET

Man Utd swoop for Anderson & Nani

LONDON, 31 May—Manchester United have agreed “in principle” deals to sign Anderson from FC Porto and Nani from Sporting Lisbon. The Premiership champions are set to make 19-year-old Brazilian Anderson and Portuguese winger Nani, 20, in a deal which could cost United about £30m.

“Terms are agreed with both players and an announcement will take place once a medical and other procedures are done,” said a statement on United’s website.

United are also set to sign Owen Hargreaves from Bayern Munich for £17m.

Anderson has been named in Brazil coach Dunga’s squad for the Copa America in Venezuela next month, but not Friday’s friendly with England at Wembley.

The teenager, whose full name is Anderson Luis de Abreu Oliveira, started nine matches for Porto this season, scoring twice, and came on as a substitute six times.

He joined Porto from Gremio in December 2005 and played against United in a pre-season friendly last August at the Amsterdam Tournament.

Nani had also been linked with a move to Tottenham, but recently said he would only leave Portugal to play for a club like United.

Nani, whose full name is Luis Carlos Almeida da Cunha, was born in the Cape Verde islands and has been compared to his compatriot Cristiano Ronaldo, with pace and trickery similar to that of the Footballer of the Year.—INTERNET

Capello ‘admits’ Beckham mistake

MANCHESTER, 30 May—Fabio Capello has admitted he was wrong to let David Beckham leave Real Madrid, according to former New York Cosmos star Giorgio Chinaglia.

Beckham turned down the offer of a new Real Madrid deal in January, deciding instead to sign a lucrative contract with Los Angeles Galaxy.

Capello accepted Beckham’s choice but told him at the time he would not play for Real during his last few months with the club.

Beckham has since produced a string of impressive performances and Chinaglia claims Capello now regrets his decision.

Italian rider Gilberto Simoni (L) celebrates as he crosses the finish line followed by his team mate Leonardo Piepoli after the 17th stage of the Giro d’Italia cycling race, from Lienz to Monte Zoncolan, on 30 May, 2007. Simoni won the stage while Italian rider Danilo Di Luca took the leader’s pink jersey.—INTERNET

Crespo to stay at Inter

However, Crespo has repeatedly spoken of his desire to remain in Italy and it now seems he has got his wish.

An Inter statement read: “FC Internazionale have received a fax from Chelsea stating that Argentina striker Hernan Crespo is free to remain with the Nerazzurri for the second season of his two-year loan deal.”

Crespo told the club’s official website he was delighted to have secured his stay.

“T’ain very happy. Staying at Inter was what I wanted. ‘I would like to thank Chelsea first of all for their help, and Inter for confirming their faith in me.’

“The player’s agent, Fernando Hidalgo, broke the news, and said the striker had agreed a new two-year deal with the Serie A champions.”
Commission urges joint EU rules on sea migrants

BRUSSELS, 31 May — European Union countries should adopt common rules to clarify who is responsible for saving illegal migrants at sea, the European Commission said on Wednesday after several rows over stranded migrants.

Last week 27 shipwrecked Africans spent three days clinging to tuna nets in the Mediterranean while Malta and Libya, which is not an EU member, argued over who should rescue them. They were picked up by the Italian Navy.

Malta refused to allow migrants on Malta on a Spanish tugboat land while Malta and Libya,两种可能的国家, were believed to die. The Spanish Government said on Tuesday it would accept the 26 Africans barred from Malta but it wanted rules to clarify who should take migrants rescued at sea.

The Spanish Government said on Tuesday it would accept the 26 Africans barred from Malta but it wanted rules to clarify who should take migrants rescued at sea.

Thousands of Africans desperate for a new life in Europe are believed to die each year as they attempt the perilous sea crossing in open wooden boats with little food and water. According to UN rules, specific search and rescue zones at sea must be shared among countries, a study published by the EU executive on maritime law said.

But the UN Convention is not clear on which country should receive the rescued passengers, the EU study said. Besides, it has not yet been decided who is responsible for waters off Libya, the study said.

Malta complains that it is too small to take in all migrants who arrive in its territorial waters, often leaping from Libya and heading for other EU countries such as Italy.

The EU is beefing up its efforts to stem illegal migration, after more than 10,000 Africans came ashore last year in the Canaries. — MNA/Reuters

Weather on 30-5-2007 was (1.3) hours approx. mum temperature on 31-5-2007 was 75°F. Relative humidity was (73%) with a dew point of 62°F. Rainfall recorded was Hpa-an (2.52) inches, Thuton (2.50) inches, Bago (2.09) inches, Pyinuma (1.97) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.65) inches, Kawthong (1.57) inches and Ann (1.49) inches.

Maximum temperature on 30-5-2007 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 31-5-2007 was 75°F. Relative humidity was (73%) with a dew point of 62°F. Rainfall recorded was Hpa-an (2.52) inches, Thuton (2.50) inches, Bago (2.09) inches, Pyinuma (1.97) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.65) inches, Kawthong (1.57) inches and Ann (1.49) inches.

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe hoists umbrella atop pagoda in Botahtaung Tsp, accepts cash donations

YANGON, 30 May — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Yangon Development Council hoisted Shwehtidaw (umbrella) and religious objects atop Bodhi Zaya (Aung Bodhi) Pagoda at Botahtaung Township.

First, the congregation led by Lt-Gen Myint Swe received the Nine Precepts from Member of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Presiding Sayadaw of Mingalayama Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ratthasara, and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, senior military officers, departmental officials and wellwishers presented the religious objects to be hoisted atop Bodhi Zaya (Aung Bodhi) Pagoda and offertories to Sayadaws and Members of the Sangha.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepted cash donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Mingalayama Monastery in Botahtaung Township here this morning.

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Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka

Free medical treatment given to patients with eye complaints in Thaton

YANGON, 31 May — An eye specialist team led by eye specialists Prof Dr Tin Win and Prof Dr Kan Nyunt provided free medical treatment for patients with eye complaints of Thaton in Mon State from 28 to 30 May 2007.

Free treatments were given to over 1,100 patients of Thaton and nearby towns and other 249 patients underwent surgical operations. In addition, necessary assistance was rendered to the patients by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and departmental officials, local authorities, staff of Mon State Health Department and social organizations.

Medicines for the eye specialist team were donated by Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Candadhika and wellwishers. The team included Dr Moe Kyaw, Dr Aye Ko, Dr Ni Lar Thein, Dr Hla Kathy, Dr Kathy Myint, Dr Saw Thwin Mon Thein, Dr Yi Lin, Dr Aung Moe Tun, Dr Thein Htut, Dr Chaw Wai Lwin, Dr Maung Maung Moe Win, Dr Moe Aye Latt and four nurses.

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Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka

No involvement in any acts opposing State
U Yan Kyin Maw quits illegally formed CRPP

YANGON, 31 May — U Yan Kyin Maw, a member of the illegally formed Committee Representing the People’s Parliament (CRPP) quit the committee of his own volition on 23 May.

U Yan Kyin Maw of Ward 5, Lashio, northern Shan State, tendered his resignation to the CRPP chairman and respective authorities. He is the vice-chairman 2 of Kokang Democratic Party and a representative-elect of Kunlong Township Constituency.

In his resignation letter, he wrote that he signed as a member of CRPP in 2003 (he did not remember the day and the month); that he attended the government-sponsored National Convention from 1992 to 1997; that later, he was not able to participate in the Convention due to health grounds; that although he was a CRPP member he had no involvement at all in any act that opposes the State.

U Yan Kyin Maw in his letter of resignation also said that as he had no more wish to take participate in CRPP, he quit it of his own volition on 23 May this year.

CRPP is not a lawful committee. — MNA