

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (9 March, 1997)

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(1) Farmers Urged to work hard for development of agriculture

YANGON, 8 March- Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe inspected bridge projects in Ayeyawady Division and met with farmers in Myaungmya District today.

Accompanied by Secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Lt-Gen Myint Aung, Minister for Commerce Lt-Gen Tun Kyi, Minister at the Office of the Prime Minister Brig-Gen Lun Maung, Minister for Information Maj-Gen Aye Kyaw, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and departmental officials, the Senior General left here by helicopter this morning for Maubin Bridge Project in Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Division.

The Senior General and entourage were welcomed at the project site by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Law and Order Restoration Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Chairman of Maubin District Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Col J Han Shein, departmental officials and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

The Senior General and entourage inspected progress of work in construction the bridge.

(2) Runway of Yangon International Airport under extension for landing of Boeing-747-400s

YANGON, 8 March Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt this morning inspected

extension of the runway, part of the International Airport Extension Project, in Mingaladon Township.

Accompanied by officials of the Office of State Law and Order Restoration Council, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt was welcomed at the airport extension site by Minister for Transport Lt-Gen Thein Win, Deputy Minister U Sann Wai and officials concerned.

Minister Lt-Gen Thein Win briefed the Secretary-1 on extension of the runway. He said that plans have been formulated for building new international airports under the State Law and Order Restoration Council Government.

During the present five-year plan, he said, five airports including Mandalay International Airport and Hanthawady International Airport will be extended and the project for the former has already begun and for latter about to begin.

He said aircraft of 13 international airlines land at the Yangon International Airport every day and the runway is being extended for the safety of aircraft as the number of airlines will be increasing. Now, he said, Myanmar engineers are extending the runway for the landing of Boeing-747-400s.

Director-General of Department of Civil Aviation U Tin Aye and Engineer U Soe Lwin briefed the Secretary-1 on work for extension of the runway.

The Secretary-1 inspected working with heavy machines for extension of the runway and left the site. Engineers of the design and construction section of DCA and of Public works are working together on the project. As the length of the runway will be extended from 8,1000 feet to 11,000 feet, Boeing-747-400s will be able to land.

(3) Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee of India concludes visit

YANGON, 8 March -Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee of India and Chief of :Army Staff General S Roychoswdhury and party, who paid a visit at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commandeering-Chief (Army) General Maung Aye, left here by air this afternoon.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Maung Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-

Admiral Tin Aye. Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Tin Ngwe, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Win Myint, Quarter-master-General Lt-Gen Tin Hla. Chief of Staff (Air) Brig-Gen Kyaw Than, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Than and senior Tatmadaw officers, Charge d'Affaires of Embassy of India Mr A K Bhattacharjee and Defence Attache Col P C Bhardwaj and officials.

(4) Secretary-1 receives President of Tasaki Shinju Co Ltd

YANGON, 8 March Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt received President of Tasaki Shinju Co Ltd Mr Shinju Tasaki and party of Japan at Dagon Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence at 4.30 pm today.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet were also present.

(5) Secretary-1 receives scholars

YANGON 8 - March-Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Chief of the Office of Strategic Studies Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt received scholars who will excavate fossils at Pontaung Ponnya region in central Myanmar at Dagon Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence this morning.

Also present were Head of Department of the Office of Strategic Studies Col Kyaw Thein, Lt-Col Than Tun, Lt-Col Maung Htay, Director-General of Higher Education Department U Myo Nyunt and officials of the Office of Strategic Studies and Ministry of Education.

The Secretary-1 said primate of fossils found in Myanmar helped the study of origin of man existed 40 million years ago.

He spoke of the need to excavate them to get exact evidence and called for cooperation with geologists of Ministry of Education and the Office of Strategic Studies. He said the trip is useful for the State and urged them to make efforts for uplift of national prestige and integrity and revitalizing of cultural heritage.

A scholar team consisting of geologists of Ministry of Education led by the Office of Strategic Studies will leave for Pontaung Ponnya on 9 March and make initial excavation.

The team comprises officials of the Office of Strategic Studies, Associate Professor Dr Tin Thein of Geology Department of Mawlamyine University, Lecturer Dr Aye Ko Aung of Geology Department of Dagon University and demonstrators of Geology Department of Dagon University and Hlaing College.

(6) Secretary-1 attends International Women's Day ceremony

YANGON, 8 March - A ceremony to commemorate the International Women's Day was held at the Institute of Nursing this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt.

It was also attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Soe Myint, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Brig-Gen Myo Thant, Minister for Cooperatives U Than Aung, Minister for Labour Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Health U Saw Tun, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Maung Kyi, Deputy Minister for Education Col Kyi Maung, Deputy Minister for Health Col Than Zin, Deputy Minister for Labour U Kyaw Aye Patrons, Work Committee and Sub-committee of the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, members of Leading Committee for International Women's Day, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Ms Chen Baoliu, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines Mrs Sonia Cataumber Brady, resident representatives of UN agencies, officials of Non-governmental Organizations and guests.

(7) Minister for Mines observes sale of jade lots

YANGON, 8 March - Patron of Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee Minister for Mines Lt-Gen Kyaw Min visited the 34th Myanmar Gems Emporium at Myanmar Gems Emporium Hall this morning. The minister was welcomed by Chairman of MGE Central Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Hlaing Win, Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Khin Oo and officials. The minister observed sale of jade lots by competitive bidding and met local and foreign gem merchants. Gem merchants bought 171 jade lots worth US \$ 651,033. The sale of gems, jewellery and jade figurines at fixed prices amounted to US \$ 86,017.

The sale of jade lots through competitive bidding continues tomorrow. Altogether 475 local and foreign gem merchants have arrived.

(8) Myanmar delegation leaves for Rome

YANGON, 8 March-A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Forestry U Aung Phone left here for Rome, Italy, this afternoon to attend the 13th Meeting on Forestry.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Member of the 7 State Law and Order Restoration Council Minister for Forestry Lt-Gen Chit Swe, FAO Resident Representative Dr Prem Nath and heads of department under the Ministry of Forestry.

Delegation members are Director-General Dr Kyaw Tint of Forest Department and Director U Aung San Htay.

Myanmar Ambassador to Italy U Khin Nyein will join the delegation to attend 8 the meeting.

(9) MCB, Public Bank of Malaysia sign MoU to establish JV bank

YANGON, 8 March-Chairman Tan Sri Dato Thong of Public Bank Bhd of Malaysia and party called on Minister for Commerce Lt-Gen Tun Kyi at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this evening.

They discussed establishment of a joint-venture bank between Myanmar Citizens Bank and Public Bank Bhd, bilateral trade and investment.

A ceremony to sign a memorandum of understanding on establishment of the joint-venture bank was also held at the hotel.

It was attended by Minister Lt-Gen Tun Kyi, Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen Win Tin, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Naing, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyi Aye, Chairman of MCB U Hla Tin, Chairman Tan Sri Dato Thong, directors-general under Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance and Revenue, officials and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Lt-Gen Tun Kyi said there prevail political stability and economic progress in the time of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and investors have

confidence in Myanmar's economy because of better investment opportunities.

He said he believes that Myanmar, now an observer in the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), will be a member country of the association soon.

He also expressed his appreciation on the MoU.

Minister Brig-Gen Win Tin explained monetary policy and establishment of the joint-venture bank. U Hla Tin and Tan Sri Dato Thong signed the MoU.

Afterwards, a dinner in honour of the guests was held at the hotel.
