

## **THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (17 March, 1997)**

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- (1) Secretary-1 gives instructions on offering dry rations to eminent Sayadaws, religious title recipient Sayadaws**
- (2) Personnel in service and retirement get together at MOFA Golden Jubilee**
- (3) Secretary-1 receives officials of Saudi Arabia Delta International**
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- (5) Transtel TV Group of Germany to feature Myanmar jade**
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- (11) Pre-primary school holds intellectual capability contests**

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- (1) Secretary-1 gives instructions on offering dry rations to eminent Sayadaws, religious title recipient Sayadaws**

YANGON, 16 March- Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt today gave instructions to officials concerned on offering dry rations to the eminent Sayadaws and the religious title recipient Sayadaws who will attend the religious title conferring ceremony.

Accompanied by Deputy minister for Religious Affairs U Aung Khin and officials of the Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt arrived at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin, the venue of the Fourth 47-member Meeting of the Fourth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, at Kaba Aye this afternoon.

The Secretary- 1 and party then paid respects to Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Myingyan Koesaung Kyaungtaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhita and member Sayadaws attending the Seventh 47-member Meeting of the Fourth State Maha Nayaka Committee.

After that, they supplicated on religious tasks and programmes for offering dry rations to the eminent Sayadaws and the religious title recipient Sayadaws.

While meeting with the officials at Maha Pasana Cave, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions on systematic arrangements for the dry ration offering ceremony, accommodations for the Sayadaws and preparations for devotees to systematically and conveniently offer dry rations.

Also present at the a meeting were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Aung Khin, Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, officials of the Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and departmental heads.

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## **(2) Personnel in service and retirement get together at MOFA Golden Jubilee**

YANGON, 16 March The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar observed its 50th founding anniversary at a ceremony in the compound of the Ministry Annexe at 11 am today.

Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, Attorney-General U Tha Tun, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Maung Maung Gyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw, Judge Advocate-General Maj-Gen Than Oo, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe, heads of department of MOFA, retired personnel and personnel in service and their families, totalling 1,000, were present.

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## **(3) Secretary-1 receives officials of Saudi Arabia Delta International**

YANGON, 16 March Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt received Vice-President of Saudi Arabia Delta International Mr Nasir M Al Shiha and Myanmar Project Manager Vice-President Mr Paul L Blanton Faia and party at Dagon Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence this morning.

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

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## **(4) Extension of runway at Yangon International Airport inspected**

YANGON, 16 March - Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Managing Director of Public Works U Tint Swe and officials inspected extension of runway at Yangon International Airport this morning.

The were welcomed by Director-General of Department of Civil Aviation U Tin Aye and officials of Public Works.

Director-General U Tin Aye reported on progress of work and future tasks. Senior En6ineer U Kyaw Tint of regional group-2 of Public Works reported on choice of service road and requirements.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun spoke of implementation by Public Works and necessary assistance.

The minister and party inspected piling of earth and density of earth and met members of Mingaladon Township Union Solidarity and Development Association.

The minister inspected extension of No I Highway and toll gate in Hmawby Township. Project Superintending Engineer U Kyi Win reported on collection of fees and difficulties.

He spoke of the need to collect Fees and to start construction of toll gates on completion of extension of road.

He also inspected toll gates in Htaukkyant and in front of Kyaikdaywi Pagoda.

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#### **(5) Transtel TV Group of Germany to feature Myanmar jade**

YANGON, 16 March - Minister for Hotels and Tourism Lt-Gen Kyaw Ba received Director Mr George Peter Muller of Transtel Group of Germany at his office this morning. Present together with Mr Muller were Mr Jan Kerart and U Hsu Tin in charge of management for Myanmar.

Transtel TV plans to feature Myanmar jade, including imperial jade, in a teleplay 'Jade Road'.

Director-General U Khin Maung Lat of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism and Managing Director U Myo Min of Restaurant and Beverage Enterprise were also present.

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#### **(6) Myanmar Trade delegation leaves for Indonesia, Vietnam**

YANGON, 16 March-A seven-member Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Commerce Lt-Gen Tun Kyi left here this morning by air for Indonesia and Vietnam at the invitation of Minister for Industry and Trade of the Republic of Indonesia Mr Tungki Ariwibowo and Minister for Trade of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Le Van Triet.

The Myanmar delegation was seen off by Minister for Forestry Lt-Gen Chit Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Soe Tha, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Viet Tan, officials of the Indonesian Embassy and Singaporean Embassy, Adviser to the Ministry of Commerce, the directors-general and the managing directors and officials at Yangon International Airport.

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### **(7) Thamaing Overpass to be inaugurated on 22 March**

YANGON, 16 March- Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein inspected construction of Thamaing Overpass on Thamaing Railway Station Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

Managing Director of Myanmar Railways Thura U Thaung Lwin and general managers briefed him on progress of work and finishing touches.

The minister gave necessary instructions.

Thamaing Overpass is located on Thamaing Railway Station Road which links Insein Road with Bayintnaung Road.

For easing the rush-hour snags at the crossing, the overpass has been built by Myanmar Railways beginning 23 October last year.

It will be inaugurated on 22 March 1997 hailing the 52nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

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### **(8) Minister for Livestock and Fisheries arrives back from PRC**

YANGON, 16 March - Members of Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thaung arrived back here in the evening after studying livestock and fisheries in the People's Republic of China.

back at the airport by Minister at the Office of the Prime Minister Col Pe Thein, Minister for Labour Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein, Ambassador of PRC Ms Chen Baoliu and embassy staff, Ambassador of Singapore Brig-Gen Patrick Choy Choong Two and officials.

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### **(9) 'Pyigyimon' capsizes near Thabeikkyin**

YANGON, 16 March - Pyigyimon ferry was on its way from Katha to Mandalay along the Ayeyawady River at about 7 pm yesterday when it leaned to portside by gusts of a dust storm and capsized, killing 35 persons.

The triple-decker of Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport left Katha at 6 am and was about one mile north of Thabeikkyin when it capsized.

Altogether 502 passengers-282 male and 220 female-were rescued and 35 bodies-28 male and seven female-were recovered. Search for the missing passengers was under way.

Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Soe, Secretary of

Mandalay Division Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn, local Tatmadawmen, township-level authorities, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Red Cross and Fire Brigades and local residents rushed to the scene and helped rescue the victims.

This morning, Minister for Transport Lt-Gen Thein Win, Chairman of Mandalay Division Law and Order Restoration Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, USDA CEC members Deputy Minister for-Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Maung Kyi and Deputy Minister for Health Col Than Zin helicoptered to the scene and arranged medical treatment and relief for the victims.

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#### **(10) US Business Affirms Interest in Asean American Delegates, Regional Officials Agree: Don't Isolate Burma**

[The following is a news story entitled "US Business Affirms Interest in Asean" by Darren McDermott, in 11-397 issue of the *Asian Wall Street Journal*. - Editor]

By DARREN McDERMOTT Staff Reporter

SINGAPORE-A delegation of US business leaders, trying to convince Southeast Asian countries to lower barriers to their markets, already sees eye-to-eye with regional officials on one issue: Burma should be integrated with the world community, not isolated.

The private delegation, featuring chief executives and top managers from about 50 big US companies as well as former US government officials such as ex-Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen Jr, unanimously endorsed the view that sanctions against Burma would backfire. Imposing embargoes is arrogant, wrongheaded and misreads lessons of history, said Alexander Haig, former US Secretary of State and a co-chairman of the delegation, which visits Kuala Lumpur today and Jakarta on Wednesday. In meetings here on Monday, the US executives agreed with their Asian counterparts that sanctions or boycotts would not bring greater freedom to the Burmese people.

We feel that the policy of engagement is a better way to produce change. We're better off having engagement, participation and investments, said George David, chief executive of United Technologies Corp.

But as US students and human rights groups grow more vocal about reports of human-rights abuses, Burma has seen a steady outflow of multinationals. In recent months, companies ranging from Pepsi Co Inc of the US to Denmark's Carlsberg. As have abandoned the Burmese market, and human rights groups now are targeting the remaining few, such as the US's Unocal Corp and Total SA of France.

Still, Asian companies from Japan to Singapore continue to pour investment into Burma, and the Association of South-east Asian Nations, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, is moving to welcome Burma-along with Laos and Cambodia-into the group. The US delegation said it fully supported that move.

In meetings Monday designed to strengthen ties and show that the US is serious about the Asean region, the American executives sought common ground with Asian businesspeople on a number of other topics, said Mr David, who is leading the delegation. Pointing out that US-Asean trade hit US\$109 billion last year, 57So more than trade between the US and China, Mr David said members were encouraged with meaningful progress on the Asean side in lowering regional trade barriers.

The size of the delegation, comprising about 80 top executives at companies ranging from McDonnell Douglas Corp to Chase Manhattan Bank, also showed that US executives recognize they're not the only ones interested in the region-and that, in fact, the US's share of Asean's imports has fall on behind that of both Europe and Japan. I think we need to talk up the Asean region as a place for US companies to invest in manufacturing, MI David said. To that end, he said, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong told the group he is considering leading a business delegation to the US in September

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#### **(11) Pre-primary school holds intellectual capability contests**

YANGON, 16 March-A pre-primary school of Association for Protection of Women (Wingaba), built on self-reliance basis, held intellectual capability contests at the school on Wingaba Road. Bahan Township this afternoon.

Chairperson of the association Daw Aye Aye Soe, Chairman of Bahan Township Law and Order Restoration Council U Yap Myo Aung Thein and Head of Yangon Division Social Welfare Department U Mya Thwin addressed the opening ceremony.

Prizes were given away to children who won group and individual singing and poem recitation and storytelling contests.

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