

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Thursday 10 April, 1997)

- (1) Secretary-1 receives President of Sasakawa Peace Foundation**
 - (2) Kyaw-Zebya Railroad opens**
 - (3) Stepped up measures against drug abuse called for**
 - (4) Launching of aqua-tourism in Myanmar discussed**
 - (5) Devotees help with work at Tooth Relic Pagoda (Mandalay)**
 - (6) Four including monk seriously wounded by KNU mines, another shot dead**
 - (7) Homage paid to retired teachers**
 - (8) Eight KNU members exchange arms for peace**
 - (9) Exchange stations open in Kayin State**
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(1) Secretary-1 receives President of Sasakawa Peace Foundation

YANGON, 9 April-Secretary- 1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt received President Mr .Akira Iriyama of Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan and member of the Board of Directors Mr Michael S Dobbs-Higginson at Dagon Yeiktha of the Ministry of Defence this evening.

Present were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

(2) Kyaw-Zebya Railroad opens

YANGON, 9 April - Launching of Kyaw-Zebya Railroad today has added another 31.46 miles of completed sections to ChaungUPakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad, passing over 260 miles through a rough terrain of mountain ranges, valleys, rivers and streams. Construction of -the railroad has been completed 110 miles from ChaungU to Zebya and 83 miles from Kalay to Gangaw making total completed length to 224.46 miles, said Minister for Rail Transportation U Win Sein at the launching ceremony this morning.

Personnel of Myanma Railways with the help of experts are building a 5,700 feet long tunnel of the remaining 35 miles of the railroad between Kyaw and Gangaw,-he noted. About 35 per cent of work has been completed in building a bridge over Chindwin River between Tawgyaunggyi and Minywa, he said, adding the entire project will be completed soon.

MR personnel and the Tatmadawmen have faced many difficulties since finding of the axis of the road, braving the hostile weather and the rough terrain in implementing the project, he said, thanking local people for rendering assistance.

Minister U Win Sein then presented gifts to Tatmadawmen of No 101 Light Infantry Division and MR personnel who took part in building Kyaw-Zebya Railroad through Tactical Operations Commander of No 101 LID Col Tin Tun and MR General Manager U Kyaw Hsan.

Trains are running on the completed railroad from Pakokku to Kyaw charging K 33 per passenger which is K 311 less than the bus fare for the same route. There are 218 bridges and nine stations along Kyaw and Zebya railroad, which cost only K 11 for a rail passenger.

ChaungU -Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay Railroad is being built to develop Pakokku, Gangaw and Kalay regions and Chin State.

Col Tin Tun and Managing Director of MR Thura U Thaung Lwin formally opened the railroad at Kyaw and at Zebya railway stations attended by over 5,000 people.

(3) Stepped up measures against drug abuse called for

YANGON, 9 April-The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar and work committees held meeting No 1/97 at the Office of the Myanmar Police Force Director-General at the Ministry of Home Affairs this morning.

The meeting was attended by Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of MPF Police Maj-Gen Soe Win and members, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and the chairmen and secretaries of the respective work committees.

Police Maj-Gen Soe Win presided over the meeting with Joint Secretary Police Col Ngwe Soe Tun acting as master of ceremonies.

The MPF Director-General said there were more allegations against the country with emphasis on drug abuse. Hence, he said, drug abuse control plays an important role in the country. He pointed out that in connection with supply reduction, many areas where MTA armed group surrendered their arms are under control. He said arrangements have been made in those areas for alternative incomes and regional development. In connection with demand reduction, he said, priority is given to educating students and youths. He said stepped up measures are being taken to suppress the danger of not only opium and opium products but also amphetamines and psychotropic substances. He called on the work committees to take similar measures.

The work committees then presented work done by them. Police Maj-Gen Soe Win delivered the closing address.

(4) Launching of aqua-tourism in Myanmar discussed

YANGON, 9 April - Director of Marketing Mr Maarten N Brusselers of Fantasea Divers paid a courtesy call on Minister for Hotels and Tourism Lt-Gen Kyaw Ba at his office today.

Mr Brusselers said he is interested in launching aqua-tourism services including transporting vacationers in powered yachts in Kawthoung District in southern Myanmar, adding his company has been running this kind of services in Phuke Thailand, for a long time.

Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Ba assured to make arrangements for successful launching of the business in Myanmar.

Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Latt, Managing Director of Restaurant and Beverage Enterprise U Myo Min and Managing Director of Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services U Soe Thein were also present.

(5) Devotees help with work at Tooth Relic Pagoda (Mandalay)

YANGON, 9 April Devotees of Shadawlay Village, Amarapura Township, led by Chairman of Village Law and Order Restoration Council, officers, other ranks and Tatmadawmen of regional station, employees of Division Forest Department, Division Agriculture Services and Division Public Works totalling over 150 took part in cleaning the terrace and roads at the Tooth Relic Pagoda on Maha Dhammayanthi Hill in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, feeding fertilizer to shady trees, weeding, watering and dredging drains today.

(6) Four including monk seriously wounded by KNU mines, another shot dead

YANGON, 9 April Members of the KNU armed group, which is engaged in destructive acts without benefiting the nation, have persisted in committing evil deeds such as exacting protection money, setting villages on fire, destroying bridges, planting mines, murder, etc with intent to cause casualties to the people including the Kayins, neglecting the positive endeavours and successes being achieved by the Government after laying down the 12 political, economic and social objectives for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and for national reconsolidation .

U Kyee Maung, 50, of Thaye Thamein Village, Waw Township, was returning home together with three other villagers at 6.30 am on 27 January after picking soap acacia at Wingalon area to the northeast of-Kwinzeik Village, Shwegyin Township, when he stepped on a mine planted by the KNU and was hit by shrapnel, suffering wounds to the left eye, the right calf and toes.

Also at 9 am on 29 January, U Sasana, age 21 and vassa 2, a trainee monk of Taungzun Village monastery, was on his way to Khaleday Village when he accidentally trod on a mine planted by the KNU and his right leg was severed from below the knee.

Similarly, U Mu Toe, 50, of Kyettuyway Village, Hlinebwe Township, stepped on a mine planted by the KNU and his right big toe was blasted off at 9.30 am on 31 January while he was on his way to the foot of Metabu Hill to fell trees. He was also hit by shrapnel on his right calf, left thigh and right palm.

U Khaung Pya, 60, of Labat Village, Kyaukkyi Township, was on an uphill road to fell trees and bamboo at noon on 5 February when he stepped on a mine planted by the KNU and his left ankle was blasted off.

Authorities concerned sent the wounded to the nearest township hospitals.

At about 5 am on 8 February, three KNU members entered the house and shot Joker (a) Moe Swe, 35, who was sleeping together with his family members. He was hit on his cheeks, left arm and right thigh. He succumbed to his wounds at Shwegyin People's Hospital.

(7) Homage paid to retired teachers

YANGON, 9 April-Old students of Wakema Township paid homage to retired teachers for the fourth time at Wakema Association on Sint-o-dan Street on 16 April.

Chairman of the association U Ba Myint spoke.

The old students then presented gifts to the teachers. Daw Paik Mi, U Tin Myint and U Hla Aye gave counsel.

(8) Eight KNU members exchange arms for peace

YANGON, 9 April-The State Law and Order Restoration Council, or the Tatmadaw Government, has joined hands with the national races and is implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives of the nation for, emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. It is also endeavouring all-out to enable all the national races to safeguard the Union of Myanmar with Union spirit for its perpetuity and for emergence of an enduring constitution.

Realizing the Government's endeavours with right attitude and the Tatmadaw's genuine goodwill and no longer winning the support of local people to the insurgent organizations who are engaged in destructive acts, eight members of the KNU gave in to the military camps of the South-East Command.

Officers at the camps warmly welcomed them and provided assistance. The KNU members included U lavana (Medical Officer San Thein) and privates Shwe Daung, Aye Lwin and-Aung Than of Brigade 7, U Kheminda (Cpl Pha La Phae) and Pvt Kyaw Swe of Battalion 2, Brigade 1, Pvt Maung Kho of Win Moung area and Pvt Nyunt Win of Michaungwin area.

More of the KNU members are expected to follow suit

(9) Exchange stations open in Kayin State

YANGON, 9 April Two exchange stations each operating one auto-radiophone and 30 other phones were launched in Kayin State on 27 March, offering direct calls, local and abroad, to regional people.

Officials formally opened the stations-one at Myainggyingu in Hlaingbwe Township, and the other at Kamamaung in Phapun Township.

Each station, built under the sponsorship of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, cost K 260,800.
