

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Thursday 24 April, 1997)

- (1) Museum on Drugs opened to mark total eradication of narcotic drugs in Mongla, Shan State (East) Special Region 4**
- (2) MEC Chairman lays cornerstone for Kengtung College, inspects development in Shan (East)**
- (3) Deputy Prime Minister meets Managing Director of Ticon Holding Co Ltd**
- (4) Second bi-annual coordination meeting of Border Trade Dept**
- (5) Ambassador of Switzerland calls on Minister for NPED**
- (6) Over 427 tons timber seized in Lashio**
- (7) 56 tons of illegal timber seized**
- (8) 32.983 kilos of opium seized in KhinU**
- (9) 31 members of armed groups exchange arms for peace**

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- (1) Museum on Drugs opened to mark total eradication of narcotic drugs in Mongla, Shan State (East) Special Region 4**

YANGON, 23 April - A ceremony to announce total eradication of narcotic drugs in Mongla region, Shan State (East) Special Region 4, and open the Museum on Narcotic Drugs to mark the total eradication was held in front of the new museum in Mongla Township at 9 am yesterday. Chairman Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt addressed the ceremony and formally opened the museum.

Also present were Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Lt-Gen Maung Thint, Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Mya Thin, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Soe Myint, Minister for Transport Lt-Gen Thein Win, Minister for Information Maj-Gen Aye Kyaw, Chairman of Shan State (East) Law and Order Restoration Council Maj-Gen Thein Sein, Deputy Minister for Health Col Than Zin, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Than Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe, Chief of Staff (Air) Brig-Gen Kyaw Than, Director-General of Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Col Pe Nyein, heads of department, ambassadors of Myanmar, representatives of UN agencies, diplomats and military attaches, the governor of Shipxanbana, the People's Republic of China, local and foreign journalists,

TV crew, national races leaders and representatives of special regions, national races leader U Sai Lin and members of Shan State (East) Special Region, peasants of Nampan, Mongla and Hsilu regions and local residents.

(2) MEC Chairman lays cornerstone for Kengtung College, inspects development in Shan (East)

YANGON, 23 April, Secretary-1, of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt laid the cornerstone for construction of a three-storey hall for Kengtung College in Shan State at 6.30 am yesterday.

The ceremony was also attended by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Lt-Gen Maung Thint, Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Mya Thin, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Soe Myint Minister for Transport Lt-Gen Thein Win, Minister for Information Maj-Gen Aye Kyaw, Chairman of Shan State (East) Law and Order Restoration Council Maj-Gen Thein Sein, Deputy Minister for Health Col Than Zin, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Than Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe, Chief of Staff (Air) Brig-Gen Kyaw Than, Director-General of Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Col Pe Nyein, ambassador of Myanmar, heads of department, members of Shan State, district and Township Law and Order Restoration Councils, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, students, faculty members, cultural troupe members and local people.

(3) Deputy Prime Minister meets Managing Director of Ticon Holding Co Ltd

YANGON, 23 April Deputy Prime Minister Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin received Managing Director of Ticon Holding Co Ltd Mr Matthew Kuan and party at his office this afternoon.

Present also were Minister at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Secretary of MIC Brig-Gen Maung Maung and officials of the Office of MIC, Directorate of Hotel and Tourism and Myanma Timber Enterprise.

They discussed leasing of MTE's land and investment in construction of commercial buildings and hotel business.

(4) Second bi-annual coordination meeting of Border Trade Dept

YANGON, 23 April - Border Trade Department held its second bi-annual coordination meeting at the Ministry of Commerce this evening.

Present were Minister for Commerce Lt-Gen Tun Kyi, Advisers at the ministry U Hla Tin and U Aung Kyi, managing directors under the ministry and officials.

Minister Lt-Gen Tun Kyi said Border Trade Department was opened in Yangon and it undertakes border trade with India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand.

He spoke of the need for personnel engaged in border trade to possess work efficiency. He stressed the importance of goodwill relations among neighbouring countries and spoke of development of border trade, import and export in accord with procedures, collection of tax, welfare and accountability system for service personnel .

Directors of Border Trade Department in Muse, Myawady, Kawthoung, Tachilek, Lashio, Maungtaw, Tamu and Bhamo townships took part in the discussions.

The meeting continues tomorrow.

(5) Ambassador of Switzerland calls on Minister for NPED

YANGON, 23 April Ambassador of Switzerland Mr Blaise Godet, whose office is in Thailand, paid a courtesy call on Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen Abel at the Minister's office this afternoon.

They discussed economic cooperation of mutual interest.

Also present were officials of the ministry.

(6) Over 427 tons timber seized in Lashio

YANGON, 23 April Tatmadawmen led by Maj Tin Ye Win of the local battalion in Lashio and officials of Forest Department led by Forester U Myint Thein Tun seized ownerless teak, padauk and tamalan, totalling 427.33 tons, in Lashio last month.

They found 38.673 tons of teak planks and 15.447 tons of padauk ownerless near Nawngmon Village on 23 March.

They also seized 28.034 tons of hard teak and 101.317 tons of hard padauk near Honar Village on 22 March and 92.695 tons of hard padauk and 101.317 tons of hard tamalan near Konmon Village the following day.

Owners have been exposed and booked under Sections 42 (b) and 43 (a) of the Forestry Law.

(7) 56 tons of illegal timber seized

YANGON, 23 April - A team comprising Tatmadaw members and officials of Forest Department seized 56 tons of timber and 800 baskets of charcoal in their raids in South-West Command area from 3 to 4 April. They seized six tons of illegal timber with its owner from Aye Min Soe schooner in Ngawun River near Ywaygon Village, Thabaung Township 800 baskets of charcoal with its owner from Sein Yadana schooner near Dauk Village in Maubin Township and 50 tons of illegal timber together with three owners from Myat Kaung San schooner near Phayagyi Village.

The persons have been booked under Sections 42 (b) and 43 (a) of the forestry Law.

(8) 32.983 kilos of opium seized in KhinU

YANGON, 23 April - Members of No 3 Section of No 2 Company of Shwebo Railway Police who were on duty on the Mandalay Myitkyina Express No 55Up found three suspicious looking passengers in the Ordinary Class Coach No 3 of the train on 25 January.

The authorities took the suspects to the Station Superintendent's Office of KhinU Station when the train stopped for a while at the station.

They searched the suspects and found opium weighing 32.983 kilos in their bags and baskets.

The drug traffickers are Khin Maung Myint, 34, son of U Thein Maung, of Sema Village, Nyaungshwe, and Khin Maung Myo, 33, son of U Htwe, and Tin Maung Win, 38, son of U San Thaw, of the same village.

KhinU Police Station is taking action against the three under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

(9) 31 members of armed groups exchange arms for peace

YANGON, 23 April -The State Law and Order Restoration Council is working for the national reconsolidation, holding Our Three Main National Causes, and implementing the 12 political, economic and social objectives for emergence of a peaceful, prosperous and modern

nation. It is also setting up model villages and industries on manageable scales, reclaiming land for agriculture and fulfilling health and social requirements for the life of persons and their families who have exchanged arms for peace.

Perceiving that their destructive acts did not serve the welfare of the nation in any way and realizing the genuine goodwill and positive endeavours of the Government, members of armed groups have been returning to the legal fold, individually or in groups.

In South-East Command areas capt Saw Mu Ya, member Saw Yu Kyay, Kha Ka Paw, Htee Phu, pvts Maung Lon, Ah Nyunt and Paw Le Le, section leader Aung Aye and in-charge Daung Kyaw of KNU brigade No 6, Phado Hto Le Wah, member Sein Min and pvt Ah Win of Du Palaya District, member Saw Kyin Sein, Palaw Pho and Meik Hta of Kawt Mu Khee defence unit, sgt Hsat Thaphyu of DO battalion No 6, bringing in five M-16 automatics, eight AK47 automatics, one carbine, three BA-63, two China-made submachineguns, one BA-72, one 60mm motor, four magazines, 102 rounds of ammunition, and Capt Thant Zin of ABSDF battalion No 216 exchanged arms for peace during the period between 18 to 28 March.

In Taninthayi Division area, Daw Than Lone, wife of Dah Kwee who is incharge of Thukha toll gate, member Saw Tha Taw and health in-charge Tin Myaing, bringing in one M-16 automatic rifle, two AK47 automatics, one carbine, one .38 revolver, four magazines and 46 rounds of ammunition, exchanged arms for peace.

In Northern Command area, l/cpl Aung Than Oo (a) Sit Min, wife Ma Auk Nant, son Aung Soe Thein, l/cpl Naing Aung (a) Tin Myint, pvt Ma Si Si Myint, daughter Ma Khine Nu Tin (a) Ma Nyein Yu YU Aung, pvt Maung Oo, Ma Win Win Khine - and Ma Moe of ABSDF (Central) and medic Than Soe and Ma Khine Nang returned to the legal fold during the period.

Altogether 31 members of armed groups who exchanged arms for peace were warmly welcomed by officials of various Tatmadaw camps and provided assistance to them.
