

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Friday 2 May, 1997)

- (1) **General Maung Aye, Secretary-2 inspect building of railroad, discovery of mineral deposits in Thaunggyi, extraction of gypsum in Maukmai**
 - (2) **Minister stresses year round cultivation of paddy in Madalay, Magway and Sagaing Divisions**
 - (3) **Myanmar health delegation leaves for 50th WHO Session**
 - (4) **Yangon Command Commander inspects reclamation of low-lying fields for cultivation in Htantabin Township**
 - (5) **Myanmar May Flower Bank Branch opens in Taunggyi**
 - (6) **ASEAN FMs to recommend new membership timing WTO-member Myanmar better suited for entry**
 - (7) **Study group of Kayin State on excursion**
 - (8) **Raw opium, opium oil seized**
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YANGON, 1 May - Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Maung Aye inspected building of Taunggyi-Shwenyaung railroad, newly discovered mineral deposits in Taunggyi Township and extraction of gypsum in Maukmai Townships today.

- (2) **Minister stresses year round cultivation of paddy in Madalay, Magway and Sagaing Divisions**

YANGON, 1 May - Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Lt-Gen Myint Aung inspected departmental functions' in NyaungU Township yesterday evening.

He inspected grape, mango, lime, water melon and thakwahnwe (sweet cucumber) plants cultivated in the fruit garden of Myanma Agriculture Service, sesamum, groundnut and beans plantations in the Arid Zone Research Farm and mango trees along the approach road to NyaungU Airport.

The minister also inspected cultivation of long' staple cotton with water pumped from the Ayeyawady at the Water Resources Utilization Department in NyaungU. He met personnel at Division, district and township levels in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and spoke' of the need to ensure availability of water from dams and extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, beans, cotton and edible oil crops such as groundnut and sesamum. He told the personnel to cultivate paddy throughout the year after digging wells and to begin the scheme in 12

townships in Mandalay Division, ten townships in Magway Division and favourable townships in Sagaing Division.

The minister left for Kyaukpadaung this morning and inspected the Sebauk Vineyard, orange and strawberry plantations in Popa farm and Konzaung cultivation farm at Seittein Village in the township.

He inspected the cotton mill of Myanmar Cotton and Sericulture Enterprise and grading, storage and milling of cotton.

(3) Myanmar health delegation leaves for 50th WHO Session

YANGON, 1 May - Myanmar health delegation led by Minister for Health U Saw Tun left here by air this evening to attend the 50th Session of the World Health Organization to be held on 5 May in Geneva, Switzerland, and to study the health activities in the Russian Federation at the invitation of Minister of Health of the Russian Federation.

(4) Yangon Command Commander inspects reclamation of low-lying fields for cultivation in Htantabin Township

YANGON, 1 May - Chairman of Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected reclamation-of land for cultivation in low-lying fields in MaShweU Village in Htantabin Township, building of Katwe embankment in Katwe Village-tract and dredging of TamaloYayle canal this morning.

They were welcomed there by Tactical Operations Commander Col Tin Soe, chairmen of District, Township and Ward/Village Law and Order Restoration Councils and other officials.

(5) Myanmar May Flower Bank Branch opens in Taunggyi

YANGON, 1 - May Myanmar May- Flower Bank opened its 11th branch in Taunggyi, Shan State, today in its efforts for contributing to the task for equating development in all regions including border areas. A ceremony to mark opening of the bank branch held at Taunggyi Town Hall was attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue BrigGen Win Tin, Brig-Gen Pyi Son of Taunggyi Station, military officers, Secretary of Shan State Law and Order Restoration Councils, the Chairman and officials of Myanmar May Flower bank, divisional departmental heads and entrepreneurs.

(6) ASEAN FMs to recommend new membership timing WTO-member Myanmar better suited for entry

BANGKOK, 1 May- ASEAN foreign ministers will work out a recommendation for their leaders on the timing of the admission of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar into the regional grouping, according to Thai Foreign Minister Prachuab Chaiyasarn.

He said the heads of government of the seven ASEAN countries would then have to make a final decision on the issue and make either an official collective ASEAN announcement or individual announcements of the entry date of the three countries.

The leaders will make the political decision based on the recommendation submitted by their foreign ministers, who will hold an informal meeting on May 31, and the annual formal one in July, both in Kuala Lumpur.

The foreign ministers will base their recommendation on the ASEAN Secretariat's assessment report, which is being prepared on the situation and readiness of the three countries.

ASEAN foreign ministers will not make the decision, Prachuab said in Phuket, where he is holding meetings with his Philippine and Singaporean counterparts.

Late last year, ASEAN leaders decided to grant full ASEAN membership to the three countries simultaneously.

However, the three countries may not be considered ready for their admission this year. Cambodia, for example, has not yet passed legislation essential for its entry because of a row between its co-prime ministers and domestic instability.

ASEAN countries have announced that their decision on the three countries' admission will not be influenced by the recent US move to sanction Myanmar.

Among the three, Myanmar, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), is reported to be ready to integrate into the ASEAN economic schemes ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). Accession to AFTA is the key criterion for ASEAN membership.

When asked of the possibility of the three candidates, not joining ASEAN this year, Saroj Chavanviraj, Thai Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary, said, Only if something very dramatic happens.

He said ASEAN has its own way-of deciding one way or the other.

One potential way could be admission first, talks after (AFTA), some analysts say.

(7) Study group of Kayin State on excursion

YANGON, 1 May - A total of one hundred and sixty-nine students, youths and teachers led by U Nwe and U Hla Maung of Azin and Kyaikdon regions in Kya-in Seikkyi Township, Kayin State, currently here at the invitation of Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Maung Aye, accompanied by Maj Khin Zaw of No (22) LID and officials, visited Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

On arrival at the pagoda at 8 am today, they were welcomed by member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Ohn Myint, Head of Office U Win Ryaing and officials.

They paid obeisance to the pagoda at the north west corner. Head of Division of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Thein Zaw explained salient points of the pagoda. Afterwards, they visited Buddhology Museum. Head of Office U Win Kyaing explained them the Buddhology Museum and general renovation of the pagoda. They donated cash towards the funds of the pagoda.

Next, they visited Yangon Zoological Gardens. They were welcomed and conducted round by Staff Officer Daw Khin Moe Swe and officials of the Administration Office of the Zoological Gardens.

They proceeded to the Aquarium.

They paid obeisance to Tooth Relic Pagoda and Kaba Aye Pagoda.

(8) Raw opium, opium oil seized

YANGON, 1 May- A combined group comprising 'personnel of Lashio antidrug squad, regional military intelligence unit, Customs Department and Kyaukse District MPF stopped and searched a van No Tha/5392 of May Shio Bus Association which was coming from Lashio to Mandalay at the check point at the entrance of Nawngkhio at 12.30 pm on 14 April.

They found raw opium weighing 0.652 kilo and two packets of opium oil weighing 2.608 kilos from two passengers. They are Aik Yi, 36, son of U Law On of Pan Wok Village, Tangyan Township, and Ma Nang Yin, 34, daughter of U Aik Pan of the same village.

Action is being taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
