

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Sunday 17 Aug, 1997)**

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- (1) The second work coordination meeting of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Fifth Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held**
  - (2) General Maung Aye attends dinner to mark graduation of 98th Intake of the Thatmadaw (Army) OTS**
  - (3) Opening of Myanmar-Thai Friendship ushers in new era of regional access**
  - (4) Tero Sasana beat Aung San Selected 3-2**
  - (5) Teak relief carving presented to Secretary-1**
  - (6) Wellwishers donate car to missionary Sayadaw for promotion of Theravada Buddhism**
  - (7) Missionary Sayadaw returns from abroad**
  - (8) Minister A & I tour Bago Division**
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- (1) The second work coordination meeting of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Fifth Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held**

YANGON, 16 Aug The second work coordination meeting of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Fifth Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the National Museum on Pyay Road here this morning, with an address by Patron of the Fifth Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt.

It was also attended by other patrons Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Brig-Gen Myo Thant member of the Security and Management Committee Brig-Gen Thaung Myint and Minister for Culture U Aung San, Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Than, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Than Nyunt, officials of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Office, departmental heads, members of the Leading Committee, the Work Committee and subcommittees, doyen of performing arts and specially invited guests.

Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt said the Fifth Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions are to be held in accord with the six objectives vitalization of patriotism and nationalist fervour in all citizens including youths, preservation and safeguarding of Myanmar cultural heritage, revival of Myanmar music and dance and revitalization of national pride and prestige, flourishing of genuine Myanmar fine arts, improvement of intellectual standard of youths, and prevention of infiltration of alien culture.

He noted that for materialization of these objectives; the competitions are held every year. Myanmar people possess their own culture and traditions, and

they can still preserve their own national cultural traits up to this day, for the conviction to safeguard the race and the spirit to cherish national culture are perpetually alive and dynamic in them, he said.

Historical records and archaeological findings at the present age prove how glorious to be a Myanmar, he said, adding that the fossilized remains of high primate excavated from Pondaung region are firm evidences to the existence of living beings in Myanmar 40 million years ago.

He said that during the time of Lord Buddha, Myanmar civilization was developing and the people had trade relations with foreign countries and that with respect to the record that Lord Buddha sojourned at the sandalwood monastery at a place called Leaguin in Pwintbyu Township, it can be assumed that Buddhism has flourished in Myanmar community since then.

The Secretary- 1 also spoke about the high civilization and blooming of performing arts in Pyu Era and noted that historical, religious and literary records provide firm evidence to emergence of high civilization in Myanmar in the time of Lord Buddha.

The dignity of Myanmar Naing-Ngan and Myanmar people is still high as their high cultural standard has been preserved and promoted till today, he said.

Continuing, he said the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar attended the ceremony to admit Myanmar to the ASEAN wearing genuine Myanmar traditional dress in dignity and showed Myanmar national cultural trait, and Myanmar cultural troupe which took part in the 30th Founding Anniversary ASEAN Festival of Songs presenting genuine Myanmar culture won applause from other nations.

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## **(2) General Maung Aye attends dinner to mark graduation of 98th Intake of the Thatmadaw (Army) OTS**

YANGON, 16 Aug Vice-Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Maung Aye attended dinner to mark the graduation of the 98th Intake of the Thatmadaw (Army) Officers Training School at the OTS Military Appointment Hall in Bahtoo Tatmyo in Yaksauk Township yesterday evening.

General Maung Aye and Secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Tin Oo, accompanied by ministers and military officers, arrived Pindaya Township at 9.30 am yesterday and paid obeisance to Konlon Sayadaw.

First, General Maung Aye, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Tin Oo and party paid homage to Buddha images in Konlon Kyaungtaik. Then, they paid obeisance to Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Konlon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya.

They offered alms to the Sayadaw and received the Five Precepts from him. General Maung Aye, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Tin Oo and party also paid homage to ancient Buddha Images and sacred relics in the reliquary.

The General, the Secretary-2 and party cordially conversed with departmental officials, local residents and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, who welcomed them in Konlon Kyaungtaik. Director-General of General Administration Department U Aung Thein, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Tin Kha, Deputy Director General of the Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council U Zaw Myint Pe and General Manager of Public Works U Shwe Win met Chairman of Township Law and Order Restoration Council U Maung Maung Kyi and departmental officials at Township Law and Order Restoration Council Office in the afternoon.

They fulfilled the requirements of the township and inspected construction of the town hall.

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### **(3) Opening of Myanmar-Thai Friendship ushers in new era of regional access**

YANGON, 16 Aug The opening ceremony of Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge across Thaungyin River between Myawady, Kayin State and Maesod, Tak District, Thailand, was held at the temporary pandal on the bridge yesterday morning.

Present were Ministers at the Office of the Prime Minister U Than Shwe and Brig-Gen Lun Maung, Minister at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister U Khin Maung Yin, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Chairman of Mon State Law and Order Restoration Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Ket Sein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Korn Dabbaransi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Pitak Intrawianunt, Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Army General Chetta Thanajaro and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Hla Maung, Ambassador of Thailand Mr Poksak Nilubol, ambassadors of ASEAN member countries in Thailand, senior military officers of Myanmar and Thailand, departmental officials, chairmen of State, District and Township Law and Order Restoration Councils and members, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, teachers, students, members of Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, members of Ward Law and Order Restoration Councils in Meawady, town selders and local residents totalling 15,000.

The ministers, the commander, the deputy minister and guests flanked by national races walked on the bridge. On Myawady side, they were warmly welcomed by USDA members, students of Basic Education High School in Myawady, BEHSs No 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Hpa-an, Kayin don dance troupes and ozi and dobat troupes.

The ministers and officials and Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Minister took place at the mandats on each side. Deputy Minister Mr Pitak Intrawianunt and Deputy Minister U Nyunt Swe spoke on the occasion. In his address, U Nyunt Swe said:

It is indeed a great honour for me to address this auspicious occasion to commemorate the opening ceremony of the Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge over the Thaungyin River linking the border towns of Myawady and Maesod. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister ,Mr Korn Dabbaransi for CoChairing this' morning's ceremony in spite of his many heavy duties. Allow me also to say that I fully reciprocate the warm sentiments just voiced by His Excellency Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Pitak Intrawianunt.

The opening of the Friendship Bridge marks an important milestone in the history of the bilateral relations between the two coununtries. The border towns of Myawady and Maesod lies between Bangkok-Maesod Myawady-Pa-an-Rangoon highway, a highway is which also a part of Asian Highway. Therefore, this bridge will contribute not only towards the development of Meaner and Thailand but also towards other countries within the region. If I may recall, a Memorandum of Understanding to build the Friendship

Bridge was signed by respective representations from both countries in Rangoon on 17 October 1994. The actual foundation laying ceremony took place on 20 October 1994. The Bridge that is before us today bears testimony to the successful cooperation between the two sides in its construction. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate and express our appreciation to all the engineers, technicians and workers who participated in bringing this project into reality.

We are convinced that the Friendship bridge will play a very significant part in promoting the good neighbourly, relations between Myanmar and Thailand will bring about great benefit to the people of both our countries. While facilitating people to people contacts, it would also serve to promote trade and communications between the two nations. As a result, the local populace will surely enjoy the fruit of economic development and higher living standard. With closer cooperation and integration, the day will not be far when travel from Yangon to Bangkok can be accomplished within a few hours. On the part on Myanmar, I wish to state that necessary infrastructure measures are being undertaken for the realization of this goal in the very near future.

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#### **(4) Tero Sasana beat Aung San Selected 3-2**

YANGON, 16 Aug Thai Srimaka Worawoot's penalty shot gave his team Tero Sasana a 3-2 win over Aung San Selected of Myanmar Football Federation in the second goodwill match at Youth Training Centre Stadium in Thuwunna this afternoon.

Among the spectators were Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Min Thein, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Sein Win, Chairman of Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council Maj-Gen Khin Maung Than, Vice Adjutant-General Brig-Gen Than Tun and senior Tatmadaw officers.

Before the match, President of Myanmar Football Federation Col Thaung Htaik and the manager and officials of Tero Sasana greeted the players of both teams.

The guest team scored its first goal in the sixth minute. Aung Khaing, striker of the Myanmar team, equalized in the 35th. In the second half, Thai team's midfielder No 12 fired a long-range shot into the home team's net for the second goal. Myanmar's midfielder and captain Maung Maung Oo scored from a penalty kick to equalize minutes later. At the 86th minute, 41 minutes into the second half, Worawoot's penalty shot turned the scale and decided the match in favour of the guest team.

The Man of the Match awards went to Maung Maung Oo and goalkeeper Wacharapong of Tero Sasana.

In the first match Friday, the two teams drew 1-1.

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#### **(5) Teak relief carving presented to Secretary-1**

YANGON, 16 Aug A ceremony to present a teak relief carving to Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt was held at the National Museum this morning.

Present were Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Brig-Gen Myo Thant, member of Security and Management Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Brig-Gen Thaung Myint, Chairman of Yangon Division Law and Order Restoration Council Maj-Gen Khin Maung Than, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Than Nyunt, officials of the Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, heads of departments and recipient of Sasana Nuggaha Title Class-1 Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Shwebin Ngwebin U Than Tun-Daw Aye Myint (Shwebin Ngwebin U Than Tun Furniture), Shwebin Ngwebin U Than Tun Daw Aye Myint presented 6 1/2 X 3 1/2 feet relief carving named "Extraction of Myanmar Teak by the Elephants" valued at 2,000 FECs to the Secretary-1.

The secretary-1 accepted the carving and presented a certificate of honour to the donors.

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**(6) Wellwishers donate car to missionary Sayadaw for promotion of Theravada Buddhism**

YANGON 16 Aug Wellwishers collectively donated a And Cruiser (Prado, at a Puja ceremony to Agge Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja and Maha Dhamma Lecturer Bahujanea; . Hitadhara World Missionary Thabeik-aing Tawya (Thegon) Sayadaw Bhaddanta- Na-nissara ofSaddhamma Thidagu monastery on Sagaing Hills.

Secretary I of the State Law and Order restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Khin Win Shwe attended a ceremony to share merits for the donation of the car at Sasana Lankara Shwekyin Nikaya Dhamma Beikmandaw at the corner of Gyatawya Street and Komin Kochin Road in Bahan Township this afternoon.

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**(7) Missionary Sayadaw returns from abroad**

YANGON, 16 Aug World Missionary Thabeikaing Tawya (Thegon) Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanissara of Saddhamma Thidagu on Sagaing Hills returned from abroad yesterday after carrying out promotion of Theravada Buddhism.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs U Aung Khin, Director-General of Department of Religious Affairs U Arnt Maung, officials of DRA and department, for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and lay disciples welcomed the Sayadaw back at Yangon International Airport.

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**(8) Minister A & I tour Bago Division**

YANGON, 16 Aug Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Lt-Gen Myint Aung, during his tour of Toungoo, attended a ground breaking ceremony of a new sugar mile to be built in Nyaungbintha Phyu Township, by the Myanma Sugarcane Enterprise and drove- a stake yesterday morning.

The minister was accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Law and Order Restoration Council Commandeer of the Southern Maj-Gen Kyi Aung Deputy Commander Big-Gen Maung Maung..Brig-Gen Maung Bo of the Southern Command and departmental officials. At 8 am, Chairman of Phyu Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannavamsa administered the, Five Precepts, and Sayadaws recited the Parittas. Offertories were presented to the Sayadaws, and merits gained were shared.

The minister, the commander and the managing director of MSE drove stakes. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been making arrangements for establishment of sugar mills with the aim of promoting export of sugar and augmenting national income. Plans have been made to build seven sugar mills, and two sugar mills are now under construction in Nyaungbintha to the east of Bago and in Mya Village, Pyay Township, to the west of Bago.

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