

## **THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Sunday, 28 Sept, 1997)**

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### **(1) Secretary-1 inspects primary schools in Sangyoung, Kyimyindine Townships**

YANGON, 27 Sept-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt inspected Basic Education Primary Schools No 13 and No 15 in Sangyoung Township and No 8 and No 1 Kyimyindine Township, this morning.

the Secretary-1, on arrival at the primary schools, was welcomed by Deputy Minister for Education Col Kyi Maung, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyaw Win, officials of the Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, heads of departments, members of District, Township and Ward Law and Order Restoration Councils, the director-general of Basic Education Department and officials, Township Education Officers, school heads, teachers, members of Parent-Teacher Associations, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and pupils.

Headmistresses Daw Win Kyi of BEPS-No 13 and Daw Khin Myo Hla of BEPS No 15 in Sangyoung Township reported to the Secretary-1 on requirements.

After inspecting the BEPS No 15, the Secretary-1 cordially conversed with local residents.

The Secretary-1 and party then inspected Basic Education Primary Schools in Kyimyindine Township.

Headmistress Daw Aye Myint Khaing of BEPS No 8 and Headmaster U Tin Htut of BEPS No 1 briefed the Secretary-1 on respective schools and requirements.

Deputy Minister Col Kyi Maung and officials gave supplementary reports. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements of renovation of school buildings and transport of teachers.

The Secretary-1 gave instructions to teachers on teaching the children properly for improvement of the pass rate.

He said teachers have to teach academic matters and nurture the children to possess good habit, observe discipline, understand and cherish traditional culture, possess union spirit and patriotism, perform civic duties and turn out outstanding students at primary school level.

Then, he inspected teaching of children and renovation of the schools and left BEPS No 1 in Kyimyindine Township.

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## **(2) Minister for NPED receives Kokenkai Group**

YANGON, 27 Sept -Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen Abel received 45-member Kokenkai Group led by Dr Kenichi Ohmae of Japan at his office this morning.

Present also were officials of the ministry.

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## **(3) Minister for Transport Lt-Gen Thein Win inspected Yangon International Airport**

YANGON, 27 Sept- Minister for Transport Lt-Gen Thein Win inspected ticketing of Yangon Airways in the departure lounge of Yangon International Airport this morning.

Yangon Airways is selling tickets in kyats to Myanmar citizen travellers in honour of Myanmar's membership in the ASEAN and carrying out work to improve its standard.

The minister was welcomed at the airport by Director-General of Directorate of Civil Aviation U Tin Aye, Managing Director Lt-Col Aung Nyunt of Myanma Airways, Managing Director U Kyaw Win of Yangon Airways and officials.

U Kyaw Win briefed the minister on ticketing, passenger services and the airways' future programme and conducted him around.

The minister also inspected food which is served to passengers on board YA's airliners and gave instructions.

At the office of runway extension project of Yangon International Airport, Project Director U San Lwin of Public Works briefed him on work done and plans to be implemented, condition of machinery used in the project and availability of construction materials and Head of Department (Water and Sanitation) of Yangon City Development Committee U Zaw Win on removal of water pipes in the project area.

The minister also helped find solutions to problems presented by officials, gave instructions and inspected the project site.

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#### **(4) Minister inspects restoration of ancient pagodas in Bagan**

YANGON, 27 Sept Minister for Culture U Aung San, together with Director-General of the Archaeology Department U Nyunt Han, arrived at Bagan-NyaungU and inspected the ancient pagodas on 24 September morning. The minister spoke of preservation of original style, keeping the surrounding areas of the pagodas pleasant, systematically keeping ancient statues, timely completion of the assigned tasks.

He also inspected 48 pagodas, restoration of which will have to be completed in mid-November, and gave instructions on designs and cost for restoration work.

On 25 September morning, the minister inspected the construction site of the Bagan Ancient Cultural Museum being undertaken by Public Works.

He was briefed by civil engineers and architectures on progress of work and by Deputy Director of the Department of Cultural Institute Daw Nu Mya Zan on arrangements for display.

The minister called on officials to strictly follow the instructions of superior officers, complete tasks as scheduled, work for staff welfare appoint staff members in accord with the set-up and fulfil requirements for the display.

He also inspected a site chosen for construction of a staff quarter, and gave instructions.

Next, he inspected the restoration of the ancient pagodas in Bagan, and called for meeting the set standard and putting up stone inscriptions of donors.

In the evening, he met employees of the Archaeology Department in Bagan and the Committee for Displaying Ancient Objects at the Bagan Cultural Museum.

He called on all to observe rules and instructions and carry out their work in unity.

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#### **(5) Works of disabled selected for Asia-Pacific Painting Contest in Brunei**

YANGON, 27 Sept - A painting contest of disabled children was held at Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf and Dumb on Thantaman Road, Dagon Township, this morning for selection of the best to be sent to the Asia-Pacific Painting Contest in commemoration of the Decade of the Disabled.

The Asia-Pacific contest, held with the aim of forging friendship among the disabled of ASEAN countries and enabling them to show their talent, is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei.

There are four categories -the mentally impaired, the blind, the deaf and the physically impaired-each bracketed in four age groups.

Nine children of Mary Chapman's School, 15 of Mandalay School for the Deaf, six of Kyimyindine School for the Blind, seven of the Junior Disabled School and two of the Senior Disabled School, totalling 39, entered the contest here.

Officials gave away prizes to the winners. Selected works will be sent to Brunei as entries to the Asia-Pacific Painting Contest.

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#### **(6) University-level General Knowledge Contests on the Tatmadaw held**

YANGON, 27 Sept-The University-level General Knowledge Contests on the Tatmadaw, organized by the Eighth Literary and Photo Contest (1997) on National Mottos, were held at Defence Services Academy, Defence Services Institute of Medicine, Defence Services Institute of Engineering, Government Technical Institutes and commercial schools today.

Chairman of the Committee for Organizing the Eighth Literary and Photo Contest (1997) on National Mottos Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein visited Defence Services Institute of Medicine (Mingaladon).

U Thein Sein, together, with Secretary of the Organizing Committee Director of Myanmar Television and Radio Department U Ko Ko Htwe and committee members, were welcomed there by Rector Col Hla Myint, Lt-Col Myat Ko and officials.

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#### **(7) Myanmar delegation leaves for Austria to attend IAEA General Conference**

YANGON, 27 Sept Myanmar delegation led by Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany U Tun Ngwe left here by air this afternoon for Austria to attend the Forty-first General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to be held in Vienna from 29 September to 3 October.

The delegation comprises Col Aung Myint of Ministry of Defence, Pro-Rector of Yangon Institute of Technology U Ba Myint and Secretary of Myanmar Atomic Energy Committee Dr Tin Hlaing as secretary of delegation.

The IAEA general conference will discuss broad areas of technical cooperation for development of applications of nuclear science and technology, nuclear safety, budget and finance and general policy issues. Myanmar has been a member of the agency since

1957, the year of its formation. The IAEA is providing technical assistance to Myanmar for nuclear technology applications ranging from nuclear medicine and research to agricultural uses of radiations.

Currently, eight ministries have programmes for nuclear technology applications.

Along with the IAEA general conference, the 17 member states of the Regional Cooperation Agreement for Nuclear Technology (RCA) will also convene a meeting of representatives in Vienna.

RCA is an interregional cooperation activity in nuclear technology sponsored by IAEA. Myanmar hosted the previous RCA meeting in Yangon in March 1997, and Dr Tin Hlaing, as RCA National Coordinator, was elected chairman. He will also chair the RCA meeting in Vienna.

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### **(8) Local gem merchants may attend Mid-Year Gems Emporium**

YANGON, 27 Sept Myna Gems Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines today announced that not only foreign gem merchants but also local gem entrepreneurs engaged in gem mining enterprises in accord with Myanmar Gems Law, those selling gems and jewellery in foreign currency after obtaining the licence, and local entrepreneurs working in joint venture with Myanma Pearl Enterprise are permitted to buy items in dollar and FEC at the Mid-Year Gems Emporium scheduled to be held in the third week of October 1997.

The qualified entrepreneurs must submit the related documents to Myanma Gems Enterprise not later than 15 October.

Booths will be arranged on the ground-floor of the emporium hall for local gem merchants who have obtained the licence for gem trading to be able to sell gems and jewellery at fixed prices.

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### **(9) Suu Kyi hurt by refusal to talk**

Sloic has won a rare point by offering to hold talks with its main opposition (Robert Horn, AP in Bangkok Post 25-9-97)

By spurning an olive branch from one of Burma's top generals, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and her democratic party have found themselves in the unusual position of appearing to be the bad guys in Burma's continuing political drama.

Last week, Khin Nyunt, one of the four most powerful generals in the military government, offered to meet with Aung Shwe, the chairman of Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, and two executive committee

members to discuss their differences.

But Khin Nyunt still refused to meet with Ms Suu Kyi, the party's general-secretary, or vice-chairman Tin Oo and Kyi Maung, the party leaders who enjoy the most public support.

Ms Suu Kyi believed that by courting Aung Shwe, Khin Nyunt was trying to engineer a split in the party, known as the NLD, and ultimately weaken the democratic movement.

So the party turned the general down.

Did Ms Suu Kyi and the democrats miss a chance to begin resolving Burma's political stalemate? With an NLD congress to begin on Saturday, could Aung Shwe have convinced Khin Nyunt not to launch the mass arrests that always accompany such events?

Or did the NLD simply sidestep a clever ploy by the regime to sow divisions in their party?

Either way, for the first time since seizing power in 1988, the regime-the State Law and Order Restoration Council, or Slorc-succeeded in appearing reasonable and open to compromise, while Ms Suu Kyi came off as stubborn and selfish.

That was no small accomplishment considering the regime's usually poor press and its pariah status in the international community. Even some NLD members were troubled by the rejection.

"Let the meeting happen," said one NLD member in Rangoon who spoke only on condition of anonymity. "Make friends first, make demands later. If they don't relent on meeting (Ms Suu Kyi), then don't meet again."

While most Western diplomats publicly supported Ms Suu Kyi's stand, privately some expressed disappointment.

"Slorc really looks good because they made an offer and the NLD rejected it," said Aung Zaw, an exiled Burmese journalist living in Thailand who covers political developments in his former country. "I'm sure the NLD has made a mistake."

Ms Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize-winner, has been calling for a dialogue with the military government ever since she was released from six years of house arrest in 1995.

Had the Khin Nyunt-Aung Shwe meeting taken place, it would have been only the second face-to-face encounter between a key member of the regime and an NLD leader after more than two years of increasing repression and arrests of party members.

Several Asian diplomats said the NLD should have been willing to meet with Khin Nyunt at least a couple more times and try to work out some problems before drawing a line in the sand.

If the talks with Aung Shwe had gone well, could Khin Nyunt have persuaded the other generals to accept meetings that included Ms Suu Kyi? Would Khin Nyunt even consider such a possibility?

As long as the democrats and the generals aren't talking, there will be few answers to the continuing puzzle of Burmese politics.

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### **(10) Suu Kyi is key to Slorc talks**

Agence France-Press

YANGON-Burma's main opposition party said yesterday it turned down talks with the ruling junta because any dialogue would have to include its leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The National League for Democracy (NLD) issued a statement explaining why it had rejected an invitation for talks with the junta's first secretary Khin Nyunt.

"The NLD is always in favour of a meaningful dialogue with the Slorc but this would have to include Aung San Suu Kyi," it said.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council is the official name of the junta.

Khin Nyunt invited NLD chairman Aung Shwe and two other members of the party's central executive committee to a meeting on Tuesday. The opposition party has repeatedly called for talks with the military regime.

"According to the NLD's principles, any important undertaking by the party should be done with both the chairman and the general secretary Aung San Suu Kyi together," the NLD statement said. (The Nation, Bangkok, 18-9-97)

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### **(11) Burma Opposition Calls Off Meeting**

YANGON- Burma's opposition party, led by the Nobel Peace laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, called off a meeting with one of the country's most powerful generals, a government official said Tuesday.

The official said the Chairman of the National League for Democracy, Aung Shwe, decided not to attend talks with the military intelligence chief, Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, moments before their planned meeting Tuesday morning.

The talks, which were also to include two senior members of the National League's executive committee, were to have been held at the request of General Khin Nyunt, who is Secretary-1 of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.

The officials said Aung Shwe said he could not hold discussions with the government without Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the party's secretary-general, being present.

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