

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Saturday, 29 Nov 1997)

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(1) Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Republic of Mauritania

YANGON, 28 nov On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which falls on 28 November 1997, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

(2) Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Republic of Albania

YANGON, 29 Nov Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Rexhep Meidani, President of the Republic of Albania, on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Liberation Day of the Republic of Albania which falls on 29 November 1997.

(3) Secretary-1 inspects Chindwin River Bridge (Kalaywa) Project

YANGON, 28 Nov-Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt inspected the axis of Chindwin River Bridge (Kalaywa) and approach road and regional development undertakings on 27 and 28 November.

Accompanied by Minister for Cooperatives U Than Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Minister for Education U Pan Aung, Minister for Culture U Aung San, Minister for Health Maj-Gen Ket Sein, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Sein Win, Minister for Forestry U Aung Phone, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, heads of departments and other officials, he left here by air for Kalay Township in Sagaing Division, yesterday afternoon.

The Secretary- 1 and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Soe Win, military and civilian officers, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross and Tatmadawmen and families.

Together with Commander Brig-Gen Soe Win, the Secretary- 1 and party visited No 1 site chosen for construction of Chindwin River Bridge (Kalaywa) near Shwedaung village, Kalaywa Township, and were welcomed by local authorities, departmental personnel and members of USDA, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Col Aung Min of Kalay Station and officials briefed them on the axis of the projected sites No 1 and No 2, progress in finding of the axis of approach road, geological condition of the Project area, the course of Chindwin River and the length and type of the bridge.

The Secretary- 1 gave suggestions and inspected the axis.

At the No 2 projected site, he attended to the needs of the officials in finding of axis of the bridge and approach road.

Traffic will be busy on the bridge which will be located at the junction of Monywa-Homalin Hkamti and Monywa-Tamu-Chin State roads.

Completion of the bridge will cut travelling time to the destinations on the two roads and ensure smooth transport.

Back in Kalay, they inspected the Township People's Hospital, the hospital extension project and treatment.

Officials explained plans to construct more buildings at the hospital.

Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt urged officials to extend the hospital to become a 100bed facility as the first phase and to lay down plans to upgrade it to become a 200bed hospital in the future.

At Kalay Airport Runway Extension Project, an engineer briefed them on progress in extension of the runway and concrete laying and building of the airport terminal.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt looked into the requirements and inspected the project.

The runway is being extended up to 5,500 feet for F-28 aircraft to land at the airport.

The entire project is scheduled for completion in time to ensure smooth transportation for Students Sports Festival which will be held in Haka, Chin State.

In the evening, they visited Dhammayon Kyaungtaik and paid obeisance to Sagahla Phayagyi and ancient Buddha images revered by King Narapati 800 years ago.

They also paid respects to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammapala and members of the Sangha of the Kyaungtaik. They also presented offertories to them.

At Aung Mingala Kyaungtaik, they paid respects to Sayadaws led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammasami and presented offertories.

They presented donations to Raza Maha Muni Pagoda. funds.

Accompanied by USDA Secretary-General U Than Aung, CEC members U Pan Aung, U Aung San and Brig-Gen Sein Win, the Secretary-1 met executives of Kalay District/Township USDAs, USDA ward organizers and USDA members at Kalay District USDA Office. Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt discussed regional development, education, health and youth training activities.

U Pan Aung, U Than Aung, U Aung San, Brig-Gen Sein Win and officials looked into the needs in reconstruction of No 3 Basic Education Primary School which was destroyed by a fire.

The ministers then visited Kalay College and met faculty members.

U Pan Aung gave suggestions on development of the college

Minister U Aung Phone also met officials at the Township Myanma Timber Enterprise Office.

(4) Secretary-2 inspects North Okkalapa Township development activities

YANGON, 28 Nov - Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Oo inspected North Okkalapa Township Basic Education Primary School 3, market and briquette factory in the township this morning. He was accompanied by Minister at the Office of the Prime Minister Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Forestry Col Thaik Tun, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Maung Kyi, Officer on Special Duty at the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Than Tint, Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyaw Win and officials.

The Secretary-2 and pate arrived at the renovated North Okkalapa BESPS 3 in Ward 2 at 10.15 am and were welcomed there by Commander of Military Region Col Hsan Hsint and officials.

(6) Innwa Bank Ltd opens to help develop nation's financial sector

YANGON, 28 Nov Innwa Bank Ltd of Myanmar Economic Cooperation opened with a ceremony at 554/556, Merchant Street, here at 9 am today.

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Oo unveiled the signboard.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank Minister for Military Affairs Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Tin Hla formally opened the bank.

Secretary-3 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Win Myint, members of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Commodore Nyunt Thein and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Brig-Gen Kyaw Than, ministers, the attorney-general, senior Tatmadaw officers, deputy ministers, heads of departments, bankers, members of the Board of Directors of the bank and staff and guests were also present.

(6) 97 (Yangon) China Light Industrial, Mechanical, Electrical & Technological Products Fair commences

YANGON, 28 Nov-The opening ceremony of 97 (Yangon) China Light Industrial, Mechanical, Electrical & Technological Products Fair was held at Tatmadaw Hall on U Wisara Road this morning.

Present were Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen Abel, Minister for Commerce Maj-Gen Kyaw Than, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister at the Office of the State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Maung Maung, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Col Than Zin, Deputy Minister for NPED Brig-Gen Zaw Tun, Deputy Minister for Commerce Commodore Myo Tint and department heads, Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China Mr Yu Tiegen, commercial counsellors of foreign embassies, members of the fair organizing committee, officials of industrial and electrical companies at home and abroad.

(7) Construction of Bo Aung Kyaw Wharf inspected

YANGON, 28 Nov-Minister for Transport Lt-Gen Tin Ngwe, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and Director-General of Transport Department U Khin Maung Myint, arrived at the site of Bo Aung Kyaw Wharf in Botahtaung Township this afternoon.

The minister and party were welcomed by General Manager of Myanmar Port Authority U Hlaing Swan, President Mr Lin Zai You of Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Corporation (YMEC) and officials.

U Hlaing Swan reported on project and progress of work, Deputy General Manager of MPA U Myint Sein on technical and electrical matters, Adviser U Tin Ohn of MPA construction of wharf and Chief Engineer U Khin Maung Zaw on the project.

The minister inspected unloading of equipment for the project.

The minister spoke of worksite safety and called for efforts for completion earlier than scheduled.

The project started in September 1996 with interest free loan of US \$ 27.1 million under the agreement between MPA and YMEC. It will be completed by January 1998.

Modern equipment including one 40-ton portal crane, one 35-ton container quay crane, container trailers and others, have arrived.

(7) Minister for Foreign Affairs receives Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam

YANGON, 28 NOV Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw received goodwill delegation led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd Ali bin Haji Awang Mohd Daud at his office this morning.

Present also were Director-General of Political Department U Khin Maung Win, Brunei Ambassador to Myanmar Pengiran Dato Paduka Asmalee Ahmad and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe received Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd Ali bin Haji Awang Mohd Daud and party at his office this morning.

(8) Seminar on Customs Officials Training in the context of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) commences

YANGON 28 NOV -The opening ceremony of the Seminar on Customs Officials Training in the context of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) commenced at the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 9 am today.

The Seminar, which was co-sponsored by Information and Resource Centre of Singapore, Sasakawa Southeast Asia Cooperation Fund and the Myanmar

Institute of Strategic and International Studies in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar was aimed at training the officials-especially those from Customs Department-who will be implementing the CEPT scheme in the context of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

At the opening ceremony, U Aye Lwin, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department, in making the introductory remarks on behalf of U Ohn Gyaw, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), and on his own behalf spoke words of appreciation to the co-sponsors-Information and Resource Centre of Singapore and Sasakawa Southeast Asia Cooperation Fund for their kind assistance in organizing the Seminar and conveyed the best wishes from the Chairman for the success of the Seminar. Next Mr M Rajaretnam, Director, Information and Resource Centre of Singapore, made introductory remarks on behalf of the co-sponsors and the visiting scholars.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Directors-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from the Ministries that are involved in the AFTA process, Office of Strategic Studies, Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) (Research), Ministry of Defence, Institutes of Higher Learning, Universities Historical Research Department, National AFTA Unit, Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

The Seminar was the fourth in a series of seminars and workshops organized by the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies in training the Myanmar officials to better understand the ASEAN and its various aspects such as the ASEAN Free Trade (AFTA). During the two-day Seminar, Dr Mohamed Hafiah Piei and Dr Rajah Rasiah will take turns in explaining the AFTA process and the CEPT scheme sufficient detail and to demonstrate its operations with examples. There will also be a Panel Discussion where participants can raise questions to the experts.

The Seminar will continue on the following day.

(9) Homage to be paid to aged literati

YANGON, 28 NOV-A ceremony to pay homage to aged literati in commemoration of Sarsodaw Day sponsored by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association will be held at the City Hall on 14 December (Sunday).

Those wishing to donate cash, medicine and other gifts may contact MWJA (Headquarters), 529, Sarpay Beikman, Merchant Street, by dialling 252417.
