

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Tuesday, 9 Dec 1997)

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- (1) Student Sports Festivals being organized as most basic means to contribute towards human resources development**

YANGON, 8 Dec-Patron for Organizing the Eighth Student Sports Festival Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary- 1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt addressed the coordination meeting on organizing the 1997 Eighth Student Sports Festival in the Universities Council Hall of the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education, at 2 Pam today.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary-3 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Win Myint, member of the State Peace and Development Council Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Maj Gen Khin Maung Than, ministers who are members of the Panel of Patrons for Organizing the 1997 Eighth Student Sports Festival, members of the Eighth Student Sport Festival Organizing Leading Committee, Director- General of the office of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Pe Nyein, departmental heads and guest.

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- (2) Enhancement of access to primary health care and referreles targeted**

YYANGON, 8 Dec--Regional Workshop on Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods Commonly Used in Health Systems Re search Projects was opened at Health Planning Department this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Maj-Gen Ket Sein. He said:

I warmly welcome you to this "Region; Workshop on Quantitative and Qualitative Methods Commonly Used in Health Systems Research Projects", which

is conducted by WHO South East Asia Regional Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Myanmar.

All countries in the South East Asia: a Region are striving for attaining a level of health that enables their people to participate actively in the social and economic life. To achieve this objective, existing health systems must be redirected to enhance accessibility of primary health care services and effective referral to higher levels. Such redirection of health systems may require changes in the areas of health policy, planning, management and application of appropriate technology. To introduce effective changes in these areas, availability of detailed and reliable information is essential. One of the most reliable sources of information is research with various types of data analyses. Therefore, Ministry of Health, Myanmar has supported Health Systems Research activities in all departments. In the Myanmar National Health policy, it is also stated to encourage conduct of health systems research activities. I am sure all other countries in the South East Asia Region will take similar action to gain reliable information for effective changes.

At present, all countries in the region are undertaking various stages of health sector reforms to improve the functioning and performance of health sector. At the time of accomplishing health sector reforms, research plays a vital role in evaluating health care programmes and identifying innovative ones. The extent to which the members of health care team can deliver good quality and cost effective care is determined by their ability to use data from research. Therefore, there is a call for action to the promotion of multi-disciplinary health research and its utilization.

Most recently, you may see that the subjects of health sector reforms, health systems research and health policy research have featured prominently on the agendas of the country and regional meetings. Inclusion of health systems research topics in the agenda of intercountry meetings shows the importance of this research in health systems development. Despite of emphasis on this type of research, research on the development of health Policy and health systems lags for behind epidemiological and clinical research. Thus the demand for health policy and health systems research is increasing. to improve this situation of information formation lag, countries in the region should establish more specialized institutions or technical focal points to undertake capacity building.

With the objective of developing human resource for research, the "Regional Workshop on Qualitative and Quantitative Methods Commonly Used in Health Systems Research Projects" is conducted in the Department of Health Planning, Ministry of Health. The experience gained from conducting many training workshops on health systems research will help the Department of Health Planning to achieve the objectives; of this important regional workshop.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the South East Asia Regional Office for allowing Departmental of Health Planning, Ministry Health

as the host and coordinator to conduct this workshop. I would also like to convey my appreciation to the organizing committee and participants in arranging and participating in this capacity building workshop.

I look forward to your full cooperation and involvement during the workshop and wish you success in your deliberations.

Present also were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, directors-general of departments under the ministry, officials, rectors, Vice-Chairperson of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Khin Win Shwe and members, WHO Resident Representative Dr Klaus Wagner and 19 delegates of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The workshop continues till 18 December.

(3) Minister for Hotels and Tourism receives MD of Air People Tour and Travel Co Ltd

YANGON, 8 Dec- Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Saw Lwin received Managing Director of Air People Tour and Travel Co Ltd Mr Anant Prasertsit at his office this afternoon. Present also were Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Khin Maung Latt and officials.

(4) Minister for NPED receives President of Macau Chamber of Commerce

YANGON, 8 Dec- Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Brig-Gen Abel received President of Macau Chamber of Commerce Mr Hoi Sai lun and party at his office this afternoon. Present also were Deputy Minister for NPED Brig-Gen Zaw Tun and officials.

(5) Ministry of Energy holds 1997-98 first bi-annual coordination meeting

YANGON, Dec-The first bi-annual coordination meeting for 1997-98 of the Ministry of Energy was held at the Yadana Hall of the ministry this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Energy U Khin Maung Thein, Deputy Ministers U Tin Tun and Brig-Gen Thein Aung, directors general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, deputy director-general, oil-field managers, factory managers and officials.

Minister U Khin Maung Thein said the State Peace and Development Council was formed on 15 November and the new government was also reconstituted. He spoke of the need for the ministry to pay serious attention to oil and natural gas sector only and to achieve the set objectives.

Next, managing directors of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise and Myanmar petroleum Products Enterprise and director general of Energy Planning department reported on work carried out in the first six months of 1997-98 and tasks for second six months.

The deputy ministers took part in the discussions and the meeting ended in the afternoon.

The meeting continues tomorrow.

(6) MIC Secretary receives GM of Myanmar Mamee-Double Decker Ltd

YANGON, 8 Dec-Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission Brig Gen Maung Maung received General Manager of Myanmar Mamee-Double Decker Ltd Mr Michael Lee Boo Seng and party at Myanmar Investment Commission Office this morning.

Present also were officials of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration.

(7) Seminar on Credit Analysis commences at Central Bank of Myanmar

YANGON, 8 Dec - The Seminar on Credit Analysis jointly organized by the Central Bank of Myanmar and Deutsche Bank AG of Germany commenced at the Central Bank of Myanmar on Sethmu-l Street in Yankin Township today, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen Win Tin.

Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of Germany Dr Michael Koch, Managing Director of Deutsche Bank Training Department for Asia and the Pacific Mr John Barnes and Representative of Deutsche Bank in Yangon Mr Andreas A Hoffmann also spoke.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen Than Tun, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, departmental heads under the ministry, heads of local private banks, officials of Deutsche Bank Training Department for Asia and the Pacific and Yangon Representative Office, observers and trainees.

Training Director Mr Quresh Bengali will give lectures at the five-day seminar.

(8) Minister for PBANRDA tours eastern Shan State

YANGON, 8 Dec - Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt met personnel of Kengtung Township Border Areas and National, Races Development Department and Development Affairs Department at the Township Development committee Office on 5 December.

He spoke of the need for service personnel to work hard in building a

peaceful, modern and developed nation and strive for rapid development of respective, regions.

He also met eastern Shan State, Kengtung and Mongpyin Township USDA members and executives.

He arrived at Mongphyat on 6 December. Meeting district and township authorities, departmental personnel and USDA members, he spoke of the tasks for materialization of the national objectives and pointed out their duty to fulfill the requirements of regional people. He later inspected Mongphyat District USDA office, streets and the market. Yesterday, he met development committee personnel and inspected development projects and eastern Shan State USDA office in Kengtung.

Together with Director General of Information and Public Relations Department Lt-Col Chit Naing and the Secretary of eastern Shan State USDA., the minister coordinated regional development tasks in Monghsat.

(9) Minister for Forestry tours Taninthayi Division

YANGON, 8 Dec-Minister for Forestry U Aung Phone accompanied by officials of the Forest Department and Myanmar Timber Enterprise, arrived at Myeik on 5 December and proceeded to Dawei the following day and inspected departmental functions.

While in Myeik, the Minister and the Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council fulfilled the requirements on forests, timber, production of bird's nest and regional development.

In meeting with staff and departmental officials in Myeik, Dawei and Palaw Townships, the minister spoke of making endeavors with physical and mental strength and new outlook for economic development in the time of the State Peace and Development Council.

The minister made arrangements on systematic timber extraction along the track of gas pipeline in Kanbauk region and applying them for regional development.

The minister also met Division, District and Township Union Solidarity and Development Association members and explained organizational matters and functions to them.

The minister and party arrived back here this morning.

(10) Traditional attire fashion show

YANGON, 8 Dec Models including famous film stars and girl students of Universities and high schools wearing different modes of traditional attires paraded at a fashion at National Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna today.

Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation led by Dr Khin Win Shwe, wives of diplomats, President of MWSF Dr May May Yi and guests attended it.

Sponsored by MWSF, it continues on 9 December.

(11) MPF team champions in Ministry of Home Affairs track and field meet

YANGON, 8 Dec-The opening ceremony of the 1997 Track and Field Championship of the Ministry of Home Affairs took place in the Aung San Stadium this morning attended by Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing.

Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Chairman of the Ministry's Sports Committee Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Soe Win, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department Col Hla Myint Kyaw, the directors-general of the departments under the Ministry, police and civilian officials and athletes of various departments under the Ministry.

Competitions began after the opening speech of the Minister.

The Myanmar Police Force team won the championship shield.

The Minister, the Deputy Minister and officials gave away the prizes to the winners.

(12) Minister for Foreign Affairs to attend Fourth Meeting of Myanmar-Thailand Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation

YANGON, 8 Dec - At the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Thailand Mr Surin Pitsuwan, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Ohn Gyaw left here by air this evening for Thailand to attend the Fourth Meeting of the Myanmar-Thailand Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation, which is being held in Bangkok from 7 to 9 December 1997.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyunt Swe, Charge d'Affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon Mr Uthai Silthorn and responsible officials of the ministry.
