

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR (Tuesday, 23 Dec 1997)

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(1) Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Japan

YANGON, 23 Dec-On the occasion of the Birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 1997, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, Prime Minister of Japan.

(2) Respects paid to doyen literati at Sarsodaw Nay ceremony

YANGON, 22 Dec - A ceremony to observe 1359 ME Myanmar Sarsodaw Nay and pay respects to the doyen literati organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association was held at the City Hall this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Health Maj-Gen Ket Sein, Minister for Information Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Culture U Soe Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 U Thein Tun, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Director of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Col Khin Aung Myint, departmental heads, the Chairman of MWJA and CEC members, CEC members of Myanmar Thabin, Music, Motion Picture and Artists and Artisans Asiayons, doyen literati, EC members of Township WJAs in Yangon Division, writers, journalists, wellwishers and guests.

Vice-Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) spoke about the ceremony to observe 1359 ME Myanmar Sarsodaw Nay and pay respects to the doyen literati

and Joint Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo introduced the doyen literati to the dignitaries and guests.

Next, Chairman of MWJA U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) read out the message on paying respects to the doyen literati.

He said the ceremony was held peacefully fully reflecting a fine hityanma tradition and it was auspicious that homage was paid to over 80 doyens who had gone on an over-80-year-old journey in the profession of literature at the ceremony organized by their descendants together with State leaders in accordance with Buddha's Teaching "Honour to whom honour is due".

He said the act of paying homage is proof of Myanmar people's profound respect as they usually do so in their manner, speech and mind to the doyen literati for their outstanding and prominent qualities.

He said the first reason was that the doyen literati were eminent ones who had composed valuable works to their tastes in different genres and the second reason was that their works have not perished, but remained as a reasonable collection of Myanmar culture.

The third reason, he said, was that their literary works matured Myanmar people of successive periods with life knowledge, inherent wit and worldly affairs and inculcated dynamic nationalism, independence and nation building spirit in them, and fourth, as they passed a span of 80 years, they have inborn quality of Sila which deserves honour and respect.

The fifth, he said, was their good legacy inherited by the new generations who preserve and promote their ideals and concepts on the world.

He also spoke about the good opportunities for Myanmar writers and journalists who went abroad to be able to explain to the strangers Myanmar's community and clear their doubts on Myanmar and as a result, Myanmar has got new friends in the international community who will relay the message to others.

He noted that if such an explanation were on paper or in books, the impact would have been all the more forceful and that it is now time for all writers and journalists to disseminate Myanmar's valuable literary works beyond the national boundary.

When the world has become a global village, it is also' opportune to let the world know Myanmar's culture, spirit and historic constructive endeavors, he said.

In the late 20th Century, it is duty bound for the new generations, following the doyens' good examples, to strive to let the world know Myanmar's stand and nation-building and people's goodwill and spirit, and this duty in modern age is heavier than that in monarchical eras and national freedom struggle era, he said.

He promised that today's writers will strive with all seriousness for development of national literature and hand down the good legacy to future generations and wished the doyen literati all happiness.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1, ministers, deputy ministers and those present paid respects to the doyen literati.

Later, Secretary-1 Lt Gen Khin Nyunt and Ministers Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Ket Sein and Maj-Gen Kyi Aung presented gifts to the literati.

On behalf of the literati, eminent writer and poet U Wun (Min Thu Wun) gave counsel.

Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt accepted K 1.212 million donated by MWJA for renovation of ancient pagodas in Bagan, and later greeted the doyen literati.

MWJA organized the first ceremony to pay respects to the doyen literati at Yangon Division level in 1356 ME when respects were paid to 36 aged writers, and at the second ceremony in 1357 ME respects were paid to 43 aged writers.

The third ceremony could be organized at the national level in 1358 ME where respects were paid to 66 doyen literati.

At the fourth ceremony this year, out of 82 doyen writers of states and divisions and 22 townships of Yangon Division invited to the ceremony, 68 attended.

Fourteen of those invited to the ceremony could not attend due to ill health and old age. Members of MWJA and Township WJAS will visit them and pay respects.

The State Peace and Development Council, YCDC, MCDC, Ministry of Industry-2, departments, organizations and wellwishers donated over K 2.5 million for the ceremony.

(3) Researchers urged to consider their work not only professional undertaking but also national duty

YANGON, 22 Dec Opening ceremony of the paper reading session on health research in Myanmar for 1997 took place at the Institute of- Nursing here this morning and Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary- 1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt delivered an address.

Also present were Minister for Health Maj-Gen Ket Sein, Minister at the Office of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Abel, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen

Mya Thein Han, senior military officers, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, heads of department, Resident Representatives of the UN agencies, personnel of charity organizations, heads of departments under the Ministry of Health, researchers, responsible personnel and guests.

(4) Thanmyanthu Economic Foundation, others provide assistance to Tatmadawmen for their sacrifices

YANGON, 22 Dec Thanmyanthu Economic Foundation and other donors today presented cash and kind to in-service Tatmadawmen who had sacrificed their limbs while discharging national defence duties.

Chief of Bureau of Special Operations Chief of Staff (Army) Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Oo thanked the donors, saying over 100,000 Tatmadawmen had sacrificed their lives or blood or limbs for the nation so as to reach the present stage.

The national objective to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation could be laid down due to their utmost efforts, he said.

Three strengths, namely economic strength, organization strength and the strength of the Tatmadaw, are required in implementing this objective, he said. The first step for economic strength is to seek capital, the second is to boost production, manufacturing of export substitute goods and exports, and the third is to develop the production sector till a reserve fund can be set up, he said. A nation's economy will be strong only when it has reached the level to set up a reserve fund, he said.

A powerful organization with political outlook is required for furthering national interest and implementing the national objectives, he said, adding Union Solidarity and Development Association is undertaking this task at present.

Participation of the entire national people with patriotism is needed in enhancing the Tatmadaw's strength, he pointed out.

The nation at present is developing these three strengths in her endeavors to set up a peaceful, modern and developed nation, he noted, adding these strengths are growing day by day.

Cash is being provided for Tatmadawmen who sacrificed their lives or limbs for the Tatmadaw, he said. The Government and the entire public is dutifully rendering assistance to these Tatmadawmen.

The entire nation is promoting the economic strength with private, cooperative and State-own businesses, he said.

USDA has emerged as a strength to uplift national prestige and integrity, safeguarding the nation against all dangers, he said. Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades are joining hands with USDA in implementing the task, he said.

Providing cash to Tatmadawmen who sacrificed their limbs for the nation helps develop the three strengths, he noted.

Secretary-3 Adjutant General Lt-Gen Win Myint and Patron of the foundation Deputy Minister for Forestry Col Thaik Tun also spoke.

The Secretary-2 presented account books to five officers. Each of the officers had sacrificed a leg for the nation. He also presented account books to two privates who lost both eyes.

Secretary-3 Lt-Gen Win. Myint, Minister at Office of the Prime Minister Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe. Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and senior military officers presented cash assistance to 50 Tatmadawmen who sacrificed their limbs.

Swe Myanmar Petroleum Products Trading presented' cash to 50 disabled war veterans in Yangon Division.

The foundation provided cash to Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf, Khawegyan School for the Blind in Insein and Kyimyindine School for the Blind.

U Thant Zin and Daw Tin May Latt of WNW Co Ltd, Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Hse, U Hnin Sein and Daw Mya Nyein , Timber Trading, Daw Kyi Kyi San - (Family Inya Company) Thanmyanthu Bus Service (Mawiamyine8, Thanmyanthu Bus Service (Hpa-an), U Kyin Sein and Daw Than Than Nyunt, industrialists of Laydaunkkan and Hlinethaya and U Hla Myint (a) M Arif presented cash and kind to disabled Tatmadawmen.

The ceremony at Directorate of Defence Services Museum and Historical Research Institute was also attended by Director of Medical Services Brig-Gen Mya Thein Han, senior military officers, donors and Tatmadawmen who sacrificed their limbs.

(5) Privatization should benefit State, as well as entrepreneurs

YANGON, Dec 22 Myanmar Privatization Commission held its meeting 1/97 today with an address by Chairman of the Commission Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt.

Plans are under way to privatize State-owned factories and cinemas in accord with the guidance of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and in line with the market-oriented economy to boost production and earnings, he stated.

Duties and authorities have already been designated for the commission, which is formed with heads of departments, he said.

If entrepreneurs should strike a balance between national interest and self interest in privatizing the State-owned industries, their efforts will contribute toward progress of national economic policy, he pointed out.

Coordinations are to be made for realization of the State objectives and . for the entrepreneurs to gain proper benefits, he noted.

Participants then approved the minutes of meeting 3/96 and gave suggestions.

The Secretary- 1 attended to their needs.

The meeting at Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development was attended by ministers, the attorney-general, the acting auditorgeneral, the deputy minister for NPED, heads of department, who are members of the commission, other officials and guests.

(6) Deputy Premier receives Ambassador of Thailand

YANGON, 22 Dec -Deputy Prime Minister Lt-Gen Tin Tun received Ambassador of Thailand Mr Poksak Nilubol, who had completed his tour of duty, at his office this morning.

(7) Simple written English for radio, TV coordinated

YANGON, 22 Dec-A coordination meeting on teaching of simple written English for radio and television was held at the Ministry of Information on Bo Aung Kyaw Street at noon today, with an address by Minister for Information Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.

Present were Deputy Ministers for Education Dr Than Nyunt and Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, rectors of University of Distance Education, Institute of Computer Science and Technology, Yangon University and Institute of Education, chairman of Myanmar Educational Research Bureau, directors general of Myanmar Radio and Television, Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Basic Education Department and officials of the ministry.

Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung said the meeting is to coordinate teaching of simple written English effectively in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and efforts are to be made to start 1 January 1998.

The minister said the Ministry of Information serves to inform, educate and entertain and the programme's emphasis is to educate. The aim of the meeting is to improve English proficiency of the students, he added.

He spoke of the need to cooperate for improvement of students' English, to arrange easy-to-learn lessons for all levels and also on how to take examinations.

The work will be based on utmost cetena of the scholars, he added.

Deputy Ministers Dr Than Nyunt and Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung spoke on programmes of lessons in English.

U Sein Lin of UDE, Rector Dr Kyaw Thein of ICST, Director-General U Bo Win of BED, Chairman U Tin Nyo of MERB, Professor Daw Khin Lay Myint of YU, Rector U Han Tin of Institute of Education and DirectorGeneral U Kyi Lwin of MRTV also reported on the contributions they will be working.

A general round . of discussions then followed.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister and formation of a work committee for production of teaching materials.

(8) Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co opens Representative Office

YANGON, 22 Dec - The opening ceremony of the Yangon Representative Office of Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company Ltd was held at the Hotel Nikkol Royal Lake this evening.

Present were Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin, Minister for Finance and Revenue U Khin Maung Thein, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Win Tin, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen Than Tun, Ambassador of Japan Mr Yoichi Yamaguchi, Managing Director of Myanmar Insurance U Ba Tun and officials, Chairman of the Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co Ltd Mr Shunji Kono and officials and guests.

U Khin Maung Thein said : it gives me pleasure to have the opportunity to meet you all in this evening and speak at this ni]auspicious occasion to mark the opening of the Yangon Representative Office of the Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company Limited.

Taking this opportunity, may I express the role of insurance business in our economy. Since Myanmar has embarked on the market economic system, efforts have been made to achieve rapid economic development, with the ultimate goal to build the nation into a modern, and prosperous State. A significant step taken sonnest economic system, is the promulgating Foreign Direct Investment Law in 1989, by which foreign investors are allowed to invest in Myanmar. As all of you have been aware, the Foreign Direct Investment Law offers an

attractive package of incentives and the investment climate including the much improved macroeconomic situation in the economic has been favourable. Accordingly, foreign investment in Myanmar has been gradually increased. To date, 226 foreign enterprises from 21 countries have been permitted and the total foreign capital has reached US \$ 6.5 billion. Consequently, the role of insurance business in Myanmar has been increasingly important and extensive insurance services are called for.

At such a time, we do need efficient insurers, who would sincerely work together with us for mutual interests. I am very pleased that Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company could open its Representative Office in Yangon at such a most favourable time. In fact, Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company has long been acquainted with Myanmar insurance market from the very old time.

I also take pride in Tokio Marine's achievement in the world insurance business. I have learnt that starting from its establishment, Tokio Marine has earned and maintained good reputation. It has won the respectable positions of the biggest general insurance company in Japan and the world third biggest general insurance company. I heartily welcome Tokio Marine. I believe, Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company will contribute to the further enhancement of the Myanma Insurance market development.

Mr Shunji Kono and Mr Yoichi Yamaguchi extended greetings.

(9) Friendship Fund's donation for Myanma Science and Technology Research Department

YANGON, 22 Dec - The Friendship Fund of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand donated machines to Ministry of Science, and Technology this afternoon.

The ceremony at the Ministry of Science and Technology was attended by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and Ambassador of Thailand Mr Poksak Nilubol.

Ambassador Mr Poksak Nilubol explained about the donation and presented related documents to Minister U Thaung who thanked the donors.

The minister and the ambassador inspected concrete compression testing machine valued at \$ 6,700 and Chromatotron valued at \$ 8,200 which are to be used in Myanma Science and Technology Research Department.

(10) K 2.5 million, FEC 3,200 for MMCWA

YANGON, 22 Dec - Singapore Association of Myanmar donated K 2.5 million and FEC 3,200 to the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the office of the association today.

Present were Chairman of SAM Mr Henry Tan and officials, Chairperson of MMCWA Professor Daw Kyu Kyu Swe, Vice-Chairperson Dr Khin Win Shwe and executives.

Mr Henry Tan handed cash donations to the chairperson and the vice-chairperson, and explained the purpose of donation.

The chairperson of MMCWA thanked the donors.
